

Labor of Love  
A Tribute to Winemakers Everywhere

Wine has been described as poetry and/or geography in a bottle. After working with and befriending winemakers I would like to add to that definition.

"Wine – is the physical representation of acceptance of what can't be changed, resilience in the face of all odds and the eternal quest for excellence par none. It is the human spirit in all its glory captured in a glass to be shared by all."

A winemaker cannot change this years weather only accept it as it is. She will resist against all pest in the vineyard and cellar thankful when she is victorious. She will diligently ply her craft to honestly create her best work ever and she will do this time and time again. Her indomitable spirit sparkles as the light shines through the glass and her loving touch soothes as we enjoy the fruits of her labor. Cheers! To all the bold souls who venture to make the fruit of the vine into a wonderful treat time after time.

All of us understand if even only for brief moments in our lives what it feels like to be passionate about something to the point of experiencing physical sensations, emotional upwelling's and blissful moments. I once asked a winemaker who had the luxury of producing the same varietal from five very different vineyards, which was his favorite. He smiled and asked me if I had children, "Yes, I have three sons" I responded. Then he looked me in the eye and asked, "Which one is your favorite?"

In that one question, he spoke to the level of unbridled love and commitment that a winemaker must have to do what it takes to deliver the unborn wine from grape clusters to the mature elegance in our glasses. That is exactly why making wine is truly an art form an incredible undertaking that leaves a person changed forever. And perhaps, in part it explains the sheer enjoyment, vigor and passion wine lovers so ardently pursue the next glass of ambrosia from these masterful craftsmen and craftswomen.

The primary reason I chose to become a Sommelier was to appreciate each and every glass of wine I get to taste, experience and enjoy. There is a sort of elevated state where the only thing I am aware of is the wine and every detail she is opening up to share with me. It is by observing every salient feature of the wine that I am having a conversation with that winemaker. I understand and can appreciate each and every choice they made to bring that wine to life. I can speak only for myself when I say with the most sincerity possible...thank you.