

angelvine



## About Ed Fus

Ed and his wife Laureen's mutual love of wines was inspiration for pursuing Angel Vine. After a long career in engineering, Ed sold his Denver-based practice, Laureen accepted an opportunity to advance her career as an exec in healthcare IT, and along with daughters Alex and Morgan, the family set out for Oregon in 1997.

Ed's goal was to find land to grow wine grapes and, in 2001, he identified a property in Oregon's Eola-Amity Hills. It was an old cherry orchard inundated with Himalayan blackberries. After clearing the blackberries, Ed planted the property with the Pinot Noir grape that has come to characterize the region and it became Three Angels Vineyard, named for Laureen, Alex and Morgan.

Ed went into the endeavor only sure he was going to own a vineyard. He had a degree in horticulture and more than 20 years of experience applying microbiological science to a broad range of civil and environmental engineering challenges. His background was fit for his work as a vineyard manager. But somewhere between planting the last block at Three Angels Vineyard in 2004 and assisting each of the wineries who purchased his fruit during four consecutive seasons, he had caught the winemaking bug and felt it was time to start making his own. During that time Ed had gotten both formal and self-education, and built a network of friends in the Willamette Valley.

However, Ed and Laureen were selling their Pinot Noir grapes to local winemakers. When they contemplated how they would start a winery as a business, they were particularly drawn to the other grape they both had a passion for: Zinfandel.

Nearby Washington had a long history of growing hot climate wine grapes, but Zinfandel has been planted in only a handful of vineyards – approximately 62 acres according to Washington state reports. When the opportunity to purchase some Walla Walla grown Zinfandel arose in 2006, Ed jumped at the chance. A plan was set in motion to blaze a new trail and produce Zinfandel and Primitivo wines sourced from premier Washington vineyards.

After much research Ed located a selection of Washington grape growers who have both a passion for Zinfandel and sites capable of growing superior fruit and the first vintage of Three Angels was released in 2007. Awards from *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Dallas Morning News* and others brought quick notoriety and the Three Angels another winery over the trademark.

After some consideration, the winery changed its name to Angel Vine, but Ed's commitment to terroir-driven zinfandel and Primitivo remains, and awards for the 2008 Angel Vine wines have already begun to roll in for the winery.

Ed and his family are enthusiastic about living and working in a sustainable manner. Ed is a director of LIVE (Low Input Viticulture & Enology), an organization that certifies sustainable practices in vineyards and wineries. He also chairs the LIVE Winery Certification Technical Committee.