



BORN TO MAKE WINE. This title of a recent magazine article seems to fit! As a young lad, **Paul Portteus** and family would often spend Sundays at Uncle Howard's farm south of Seattle, hanging out with the cousins. In the basement of the farmhouse Uncle Howard made beer and wine from the many varieties of berries he grew. Paul often enjoyed sips with the grownups. Years later, at age 19 he bought a houseboat on Lake Union and immediately started a home brewery! "I was too young to buy it and I entertained a lot!"

Skip forward a little more than a decade to 1980 as the family tradition thrives and grows. Paul and wife, **Marilyn**, are in the **Yakima Valley** checking out the fledgling wine industry and looking to start a new life of growing grapes and making wine. Their search led them to 27 acres of open land up in the **Rattlesnake Hills** above the town of **Zillah**. They purchased in 1981 and began planting in February of 1982. Although the local advice was to plant Riesling or Chenin Blanc, instead, they boldly planted **Cabernet**, **Chardonnay**, and a small amount of **Merlot**.

The first Portteus Cabernet Sauvignon was produced in 1984 at a friend's winery. An unexpected setback struck in October of 1985 when the friend's winery burned to the ground and all the wine was lost. Starting over with the 1986 vintage, Portteus finally made it to market with a big splash, winning the only Gold Medal for Cabernet at the **Western Washington Wine Competition!** Following closely, the 1987, 1988, and 1997 Cabernet Sauvignon's were also "Best of Show, Best in State" winners. Portteus was further honored **by Wine Enthusiast Magazine** as "one of America's great Cabernet Producers!"

Portteus has always been a must stop for visitors seeking out the very best in red wines in the Yakima Valley. Branching out into other interesting varieties is a passion at Portteus. They have some of the oldest **Zinfandel** vines in Washington, first planted in 1984 and released in 1988 with many vintages awarded Gold and Silver Medals in National Competitions. Also, some of the only **Petite Sirah** vines in Washington, planted in 2000, are a new addition in the vineyard.

Portteus Winery

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