



# PAPAPIETRO PERRY

## **Ben Papapietro Owner/Winemaker**

Wine has always been a part of Ben's life. A native San Franciscan of Italian descent, Ben grew up with wine as part of every family meal and gathering. His grandpa made his own red wine blend in the basement, where Ben listened and learned.



Ben's heritage and love for wine always beckoned. The passion caught fire in his early twenties as he explored wines from around the world—Bordeaux and an occasional high-end California Cabernet. But the wines that really turned Ben's head were Burgundies from 1956 and 1957. Seduced by those captivating aromas and elegant nuances, Ben volunteered to work during harvest at a friend's Sonoma County winery specializing in Pinot Noir. There he honed his craft and never looked back.

During his 37-year career with the San Francisco Newspaper Agency, Ben met future business partner Bruce Perry. Through their common passions—cooking and wine—they became fast friends.

Today, the Papapietro Perry cellar is simply a more elaborate version of Ben's garage where he started making wine more than 35 years ago. "Authentic, not pretentious," says Ben. "Confident, but not too serious. Humble. The winery is an extension of my home and personal hospitality."

Maybe that is why one corner of the cellar is dedicated to a fully-stocked kitchen where family favorites are prepared for the staff and the occasional lucky friend who drops by at lunchtime.

In Ben's words, "cooking and wine are inseparable." He simply cannot imagine one without the other.

When Ben isn't in the cellar or the kitchen, he and his wife Yolanda like to travel and pour Papapietro Perry wines wherever they land. Yolanda joined the family business in 2009 managing distributor relations and outside sales. When they're not traveling, Ben and Yolanda are busy savoring the joys of grandparenting their two young grandsons.