



SEVEN HILLS WINERY



CASEY J. McCLELLAN

As a founder of Seven Hills Winery, Casey McClellan has earned a reputation as a visionary winemaker who has championed the diversity of the Northwest's most renowned appellations and vineyards. Recognized for developing a portfolio of benchmark Washington State wines — with an emphasis on Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux red blends — Casey has established a storied wine program known for its character and focus.

A NORTHWEST FOUNDATION

Casey's roots run deep in the Northwest. He was born in Oregon City, Oregon, and was raised in Walla Walla, Washington. A fourth-generation farmer, Casey started working wheat and pea harvests at age 14, spending every

summer in the rolling fields of the Walla Walla Valley. In 1982 he joined his father in planting Seven Hills Vineyard. Among the first vineyards in the appellation, Seven Hills played an important role in shaping the viticultural destiny of the valley. It has since emerged as one of Northwest's most respected sites.

Planting the vineyard was a transformative experience for Casey, sparking a lifelong dedication to growing and winemaking in the Pacific Northwest. In 1983, after earning a degree in pharmaceutical studies from the University of Washington, Casey enrolled at the University of California, Davis. There he completed a Masters of Science with a focus on enology. During his studies, Casey won several coveted awards, including the Wine Spectator, August Sebastiani and Gino Zepponi scholarships.

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In 1988 Casey and his wife Vicky returned to the Walla Walla Valley and founded Seven Hills Winery together, becoming the fifth winery of the appellation. "We wanted to do something original," says Casey. "And we believed in Walla Walla Valley and its potential for producing wines that could shine on a worldwide stage."

Their first harvest yielded the inaugural release of their iconic Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon from Seven Hills Vineyard. These two wines stood as a simple yet compelling statement of the McClellan's vision — to produce balanced and graceful wines that would authentically reflect the distinct character of specific vineyard sites.

Now approaching thirty vintages as winemaker of Seven Hills Winery, Casey has decades of experience in the vineyard sites. His grower relationships in the Walla Walla Valley and Red Mountain are among the oldest in Washington State. With unfaltering focus and commitment, Casey has quietly built a family of wines that powerfully express the abundant opportunity and rich creativity of growing and winemaking in the Pacific Northwest.

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