

Rob Griffin began his career in Washington wine in 1977 and is the longest practicing winemaker in the state. His love for the wine industry began as a child growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area and while working for his uncle who owned a vineyard in the heart of Napa Valley.

Knowing his life's passion at an early age, Rob enrolled at the University of California, Davis when he was just 17 years old. He solidified his career path by graduating with Honors in Fermentation Sciences. He spent several years hauling hoses and performing punch-downs in the Sonoma Valley before deciding to make the move to Washington. Rob could see the area's potential, though when he arrived in 1977 there wasn't much of a wine industry to speak of, and he certainly didn't entertain the notion that 40 years later Washington would be the place he would forever call home.

Rob made wine at some of Washington's first wineries including Preston Wine Cellars and Hogue Cellars, before starting a winery of his own. Rob and his wife, Deborah Barnard, established Barnard Griffin Winery in 1983 with a small truckload of borrowed fruit and a rented cellar. It has now grown to become one of Washington's most enduring and award-winning wineries.

Rob and Deborah built the winery's permanent home in Richland, Washington in 1996. The Barnard Griffin campus houses their production facility, tasting room, full service restaurant and fused glass art studio. Maintaining true craftsmanship, Rob continues to be fully engaged in the winemaking and leadership of Barnard Griffin. The early vision of handcrafting the highest quality Washington wine continues to drive the company as Rob and Deborah move to incorporate a second generation.

# ROB GRIFFIN

Head Winemaker + Founder  
*The Godfather of Washington Wine*

