



**PUGET SOUND
BUSINESS JOURNAL**

Cheers to Washington wines

Tinte acquires its first vineyard

The winemaker is growing, as is its drive to create quality wine. The purchase of a vineyard in Benton City will give Tinte supply control.

MARQUS WILLIAMS, A10

Tasting room with a French connection

Two longtime supporters of Washington wines are introducing French tastes to enthusiasts in the Puget Sound region.

PATTI PAYNE, A14

NOW OPEN

A new wine tasting room with a twist

THIS COUPLE IS BRINGING A DIFFERENT FLAVOR HOME

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Western Washington is home to more than 1,050 wineries, producing 18 million cases of wine annually. There are hundreds of tasting rooms in the state, where guests can sample more than 80 varieties produced, and now there's one more tasting room and wine club to add to the mix. It's The Princess and The Bear, located in Seattle's South Park.

But here's the twist – it's bucking the trend and offering French wines.

Founded by a retired Seattle power couple, both of whom are aficionados of Washington wines, The Princess and The Bear Wine Club has made specific wines available for purchase in the U.S. and is the only such club dealing exclusively in importing specially curated, artisanal wines from France's Languedoc-Roussillon region to America.

The Princess is Carol Bailey, who was a family law attorney and founder/managing partner of Integrative Family Law. The Bear is Dr. Steve Medwell, who was a prominent Polyclinic col-orectal surgeon.



“With tastes being so varied, there's enough room in the wine industry for everyone.”

DR. STEVE MEDWELL, co-owner of The Princess and the Bear

The pair retired to France where they bought a winemaker's house in the small village of Quarante and fell in love with the regional wines.

“These delicious small-batch wines and the amazing artisanal winemakers, most of which are women, and which we discovered by chance, have become our passion. We are so excited to be able to share them with our first home, Seattle, and our wine club members throughout the U.S.,” said Bailey.

The least expensive wine offered is a white 100% Vermentino Clos d'Elle 2019 vintage for \$18.99, from a small family vineyard in the Languedoc.

“Our most expensive wine is a red blend from Domaine Avela cuvée Théodore 2016 from a tiny producer who lives in our village. It appears on numerous Michelin-starred restaurant wine lists in France and retails for \$59.99,” said Bailey. “This isn't on our website yet because we reserve all of our new wines for our wine club members first.”

The two have long been sup-

porters of Washington wines and love the wines produced here. “We have supported many Washington wineries from their infancy,” said Medwell, “and now we are doing the same for independent winemakers in the south of France.”

The couple were longtime supporters of DeLille Cellars, JM Cellars, Abeja and others, and belonged to their clubs. They were early investors in Alexandria Nicole Cellars as well.

They've nurtured long-held Washington wine industry friendships like with Peter Dow, now retired, the man behind Cavatappi Winery and the Cavatappi wholesale distribution business, and just spent a recent evening together with him on the Kitsap peninsula.

“We have deep roots with the Washington wine community,” Medwell said. “But with tastes being so varied, there's enough room in the wine industry for everyone. We just bring a little bit different type of wine to the table because of the Mediterranean grapes.”

Dr. Steven Medwell and Carol Bailey, a married couple, have retired to France. They just opened The Princess and The Bear tasting room in Seattle's South Park, where they offer artisanal wines from southern France.

