



RD WINERY
NAPA VALLEY



Press Kit

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Our Roots

Our winery's ethos is driven by our founder Dong Van Nguyen's inspiring legacy and the traditions of altruism and community in Vietnamese culture. At the heart of everything we do is a commitment to being real and creating a space where all feel welcome.

Dong Van Nguyen, Winery Founder

Our story begins an ocean away, with an inspiring rags-to-riches tale. Dong Van Nguyen was born into a family of 9 in the Quảng Ngãi province along the South Central Coast of Vietnam. Although they were quite poor, Mr. Dong's father instilled a sense of agency in his children at an early age.

As a young man, Mr. Dong set his sights on construction and real estate. With the support of relatives, he borrowed the money to construct his first building in a rural district in Southeast Vietnam. His vision and commitment to quality throughout the process were recognized by the people, and he quickly became the primary builder of key infrastructure in the region.

Mr. Dong started his first company, Rang Dong Group (named for the rising sun), in 1994. Though his enterprises grew, he maintained his compassionate approach to business and high standards for quality. The Vietnamese government honored him as a 'Hero of Labor' for his hand in job creation. In addition to his benevolence, Mr. Dong also gained a reputation for doing the impossible.

In 1997, along the pristine bay of Mui Ne, Mr. Dong transformed a barren stretch of sand dunes into a stunning, lush beach resort and golf club. Sea Links City has become one of the region's leading tourism destinations.

Bringing people together over food and drink became a passion project for Mr. Dong. A wine lover and avid collector, he visited the Napa Valley and became so charmed by the region's wine country that he was inspired to start a winery of his own.

RD Winery was established in 2011, and the first grapes were processed the following harvest. For the next six years, wine was solely made for export to Vietnam. With a desire to begin sharing the wines with the US market, production grew, and in 2019 sights were set on an inviting tasting room. In the summer of 2020, we opened our doors to the public for the first time.

Currently, Mr. Dong resides in Vietnam and is establishing a nature reserve in the Hong Liem Forest.



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Mailynh Phan, CEO

Originally from Long Island, Mailynh (pronounced 'my-LIN') Phan attended Vassar College, graduating with a degree in Psychology. While her fellow cohorts jumped into graduate programs, Mailynh ventured to New Zealand where she mastered the art of shaving meat at her job behind a deli counter and traveled around the country on her days off.



In 2010, while deciding whether an expat life was her future, Mailynh was offered the opportunity to operate a new winery started by a Vietnamese businessman in the Napa Valley. As someone with a predilection for adventure, she jumped at the chance. Learning on the job has been one of the many pleasures and challenges Mailynh has enjoyed. It has given her a unique perspective as a leader. She has built a diverse and talented team and created a culture where everyone has their say and no job is too small.

When the winery was founded, the vision was to solely export wine to Vietnam, but Mailynh had other ideas. As an outlier in the industry, she saw an opportunity to do something different. Mailynh envisioned a place where anyone curious about Napa wine would feel welcome and be able to afford the experience and the wines. After years of planning, she spearheaded the winery's entry into the U.S. market and opened a beautiful, new Vietnamese-inspired tasting room in the summer of 2020.

In 2020, Mailynh also found the time to graduate from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business with an MBA. Looking to the future, she has her sights on growing the winery's exposure and bringing more of the community together through events and experiences.

When not in the winery, Mailynh can be found with her guard dog Baxter (a chihuahua mix), on the volleyball court, or dabbling in the kitchen.



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Timothy Milos, Winemaker

Timothy Milos jokes that he's "dropped out of some of the best schools in the country." A master craftsman if there ever was one, he is known for supreme attention to detail, organizational strategy, ingenuity and problem-solving fermentation management. "Every wine, every fermentation," he says, "is a living system. It is its own ecology, and it evolves over time. It is as complex a matrix as you could ask for." Dedicated to producing terroir driven wines over a 20 year span, he uses traditional winemaking techniques and a minimalist approach in order to reveal the distinction of each unique wine.



A sixth-generation Bay Area native, Tim grew up exploring the hills of rural west Marin, building houses in the summer, reading countless books and cooking. In addition to his interests in philosophy, history and politics, he studied Cell Biology and Biochemistry at Sonoma State, and was involved in plant genome mapping at the USDA. While working towards a PhD in molecular plant pathology at Cornell University, he realized he would never be content being in a lab all day, and in 1997, headed back to his native California to study Enology and Viticulture at UC Davis.

"Wine sits at the nexus of so many fields of study: history, culture, biology and biochemistry to name just a few. The fruit itself is the product of a complex interaction of the vine with its environment, influenced by the hand of the grower and the vagaries of the vintage. Every fermentation," he says, "is a living system. It has its own ecology, and it evolves over time. Wine is as complex a matrix as you could imagine, and in the end its enjoyment is a social event predicated on history and culture." While at UC Davis, Tim interned at Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, was the research enologist at Opus One, and left Davis to be named winemaker for S. Anderson and then Cliff Lede. In 2004 he began consulting for wineries in Napa Valley and Sonoma County.

Dedicated to producing terroir driven wines, he uses traditional winemaking techniques and a minimalist approach in order to reveal the distinction of each unique site. Though a very modest and jovial individual, he takes his craft extremely seriously, and with over 20 years of winemaking experience, Tim has received fabulous scores from every media outlet, scoring 90+ on well over 120 wines, placing in the Top 100 Wines of the Year several times, and 100 points for some of his hillside mountain Cabernets. We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented person at the helm of this project, as his expertise, experience and overall commitment to excellence are the foundational pillars that continue to drive this program into the future.



2019 Fifth Moon Grüner Veltliner Edna Valley

WE

92 points

“Crisp aromas of Pink Lady apple slices and Mandarin peel show a touch of green herbs while remaining clean on the nose. The palate is zesty and fresh, showing firm kiwi and crisp lime flavors.” —M.K. (May 2021)

San Francisco Chronicle

“Fifth Moon’s Grüner is a gorgeous example of its type.”
—Esther Mobley (February 2021)

WINERY REFLECTIONS

“Crisp, clean, and dry on the palate while remaining delightfully well balanced and fresh; exhibiting wonderful typicity and expression of place inside a nervy, thirst-quenching, and food friendly presentation. Medium in body and backed by nicely elevated acidity. This 2019 ‘Fifth Moon’ Edna Valley Grüner Veltliner by RD Winery is a terrifically fun and delicious white from San Luis Obispo County.”
(January 2021)



2019 Hundred Knot Sauvignon Blanc Napa Valley



92 points

"Flavors of juicy green apple, lime and grapefruit come to the fore in this tangy, fresh and lifted white wine. The layers of fruit are balanced and complex, lingering on hints of lemongrass and nutmeg." —V.B. (May 2021)





2019 Hundred Knot Grenache Rossi Ranch, Sonoma Valley



90 points

"This is a hearty, impressive and complex red from a great site, expressive in game, white pepper and lavender. The core is densely concentrated in dark cherry and strawberry. It's richly robust on the palate, with unobtrusive oak." —V.B.
(June/July 2021)

