

Founding Family

Rob Griffin

Founder & Winemaker



Rob Griffin fell in love with winemaking at an early age. In the late 1960s, he grew up near what has now become the most recognized wine region in the United States, Napa Valley. In his youth, he frequently visited his uncle's vineyard, eventually enrolling at the University of California, Davis, when he was 17, later graduating with a B.S. in Fermentation Science and the dream of becoming a winemaker.

After gaining a few years of experience in Sonoma, Rob decided to forge his own path and travel north to work in the undeveloped yet promising Washington State wine industry. He began in 1977 as head winemaker at Preston Cellars before moving to The Hogue Cellars in 1983. While there, he began making his own wine with his wife and partner, Deborah Barnard. Barnard Griffin Winery was established in 1983 with a small truckload of borrowed fruit and a rented cellar.

Barnard Griffin has since grown into one of Washington's most acclaimed wineries, and in 2022 Rob recently celebrated his 43rd vintage in Washington. As one of the elder statesmen of Washington wine, he holds an unrivaled knowledge of the region's various terroirs. His long-standing relationships with some of the State's best growers give him premier access to the very best grapes. Rob continues to be fully engaged in the winemaking and leadership of Barnard Griffin while ushering in the second generation of the family, passing on his wisdom and experience to Megan, his daughter, and right hand at the winery.