



As visionaries and pioneers of the Oregon wine industry, **Dick and Nancy Ponzi** were responsible for creating its foundation.

They helped create the Oregon Winegrowers Association and the Oregon Wine Advisory Board, both organizations useful in providing research and promotion for the industry.

Nancy Ponzi has co-founded some of the most important and successful wine events in the state; namely, the International Pinot Noir Celebration, the ¡Salud! Pinot Noir Auction and Oregon Pinot Camp.



Luisa Ponzi graduated from Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, with a Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in Biology in 1990. Following her undergraduate studies, Luisa moved to Beaune, France, where she continued her education. As part of the required curriculum, Luisa apprenticed with Burgundian producer, M. Christophe Roumier of Domaine Roumier of Chambolle Musigny, France and Italian producer Luca Currado of Vietti in Piedmonte, Italy. In 1993, Luisa was awarded the degree Brevet Professionnel D'Oenologie et Viticulture.

The majority of Luisa's winemaking experience is drawn from her life long work with her father, Dick Ponzi, at their Willamette Valley vineyards and winery. She blends her formal European education of enology and viticulture with the Oregon wine expertise of her world class winemaker father. Since 1993, Luisa has brought her knowledge of Burgundian practices and combined them with her personal experience to the family-owned winery.

Ponzi Vineyards

Chehalem Mountains, Oregon, USA

Dick and Nancy Ponzi founded their family winery and vineyards in 1970. Their philosophy of pioneering, innovating, experimenting and consistently achieving excellence in their wines, is still practiced today under the family's second generation management. Daughter Luisa Ponzi now holds title of Winemaker, daughter Maria Ponzi Fogelstrom is Managing and Marketing Director and son Michel Ponzi acts as Financial Director.

The Ponzi family's own vineyards and those under their management provide 120 acres of vines featuring a variety of elevations, exposures and soil types. The different sites express distinctive terroir and microclimates. These differences, combined with knowledgeable varietal and clonal selections, are the determinants of the overall expression of varietal flavors, character and ultimate wine structure.

The family is committed to maintaining and constantly improving the health of the vineyards, the vineyard workers and the environment. In 2000, Ponzi Vineyards was certified by LIVE, the Oregon program for Low Input Viticulture and Enology. The certification recognizes compliance with specific sustainable agricultural practices and products.

Ponzi continually renews their commitment to respecting the integrity of each vineyard, enhancing and maintaining their individual characteristics. The Ponzi owned vineyards have consistently demonstrated the capability of producing wines of complex varietal character. The artistry and signature of Ponzi wines is in the blending of distinct cuvees. All Ponzi owned vineyards have been site selected, hand planted and managed by the family and their Vineyard Manager.

Dick Ponzi's winemaking philosophy began forming at the family dinner table. The youngest son of an Italian immigrant family, his view of wine was one of family tradition... making wine to enjoy with meals. When he and his wife, Nancy, moved their young family from Northern California to Oregon's Northern Willamette Valley, it was with clear vision and passion to make world class wines.

Ponzi's mechanical engineering background has proven to be a great asset through his many years of winemaking. He fabricated machinery and winemaking techniques in his cellar that are now commonplace in many wineries.

Practicing gentle handling procedures, absolute minimal use of SO₂, moving the wine by gravity, reducing the importance of new oak and a continually deepening respect for varietal integrity have enhanced Ponzi's art. He has a great respect and knowledge of the family's vineyards and continues to allow the wines to speak for themselves.

Ponzi now collaborates with his winemaking daughter, Luisa, who was awarded a degree in Oenology and Viticulture from the C.F.P.P.A. in Beaune, France. Her formal Burgundian education brings the latest techniques from Europe to Ponzi winemaking. She has a unique perspective incorporating her love of Burgundy, with the opportunity to explore and innovate in Oregon - unbound by tradition. Luisa has tremendous respect for her father's winemaking techniques, his inventiveness, intuition and breadth of knowledge of wines.



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