



CATHEDRAL  
RIDGE WINERY

## *History and Story of Cathedral Ridge Winery*

Stepping out of your car in the parking lot at Cathedral Ridge Winery, you may notice a few things. You may notice a number of picnickers spread out across the grounds sharing slowly sweating bottles of chilled wine. You may notice the stunning views of Mt. Adams to the north and Mt. Hood to the south west. You may see the winery dog Rusty laying in the shade.

Cathedral Ridge became the destination it is today in 2003 when Don Flerchinger decided to put his vineyard – Flerchinger Vineyards – up for sale. His neighbor Robb Bell, retired from a marketing background at Procter & Gamble, made him an offer.

Flerchinger had focused on Alsatian varietals for the winery. After Bell's purchase, he brought on his virtual godson Michael Sebastiani of Sonoma winemaking notoriety as the winemaker. Bell and Sebastiani then switched the focus to a trilogy of Alsatian, Burgundian, and Bordeaux inspired varietals that grew so well a few miles east, and Cathedral Ridge was born.

Today, Cathedral Ridge is one of the most award winning wineries in the gorge. At the same time, the winery maintains its roots... literally. The same Riesling and Pinot Gris grapes Don Flerchinger planted in the 1980's still bare fruit to this day. This is the message Cathedral Ridge greets every customer with today: great wines can come from a small, boutique operation.

Strong points of Cathedral Ridges' current wine list include its Reserve Syrah – a perennial award winner and best seller – and intriguingly, its Dampier Pinot Noir. Why is it intriguing? Facing over 1700 wines, including a number of formidable Willamette Valley Pinot Noirs, the 2010 Dampier Pinot Noir was awarded a Gold Medal and “Best of Show Pinot Noir” at the 2013 Northwest Wine Summit.

Complimenting its amazing wines, Cathedral Ridge also maintains a knowledgeable and friendly team. Meeting every customer at his or her specific level of expertise, Cathedral Ridge welcomes people from all walks of life. While some wineries alienate people with stuffy wine descriptions and elitist behavior, the team at Cathedral Ridge knows how to introduce beginners to wine while simultaneously satisfying the questions of more experienced connoisseurs.

Cathedral Ridge achieves a balance that is difficult to achieve in the wine industry. Both welcoming, and yet knowledgeable. Down to Earth, but refined. Never sacrificing, Bell and the team strive for the highest level of oenological understanding, while creating an environment of familiarity and hospitality. If you haven't visited us yet, come out some time. You may be surprised by the quality of wine - and people - you find.