

About the Winemakers

Dick & Deirdre Shea are native New Yorkers: Dick grew up in Queens and Westchester County, and Deirdre was raised in Huntington, Long Island. Winemaking is a second and third career for both of them. Deirdre, a lawyer, served as Vice President of US Aviation Underwriters before leaving the corporate world to raise their two sons. Dick's twenty five year career on Wall Street included a period as Head of Corporate Bond Research at Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette and later as Senior Vice President and Principal of the private investment bank Dillon Read and Co. In the late 1980s, while still entrenched in their other lives and living in Connecticut, Dick and Deirdre purchased pastureland in Oregon's northern Willamette Valley and had the property planted to Pinot noir and Chardonnay. They purchased and planted adjacent acreage in 1995, bringing the total planted to 140 acres. Over time, as the quality of the vineyard's fruit was recognized, premier winemakers from both Oregon and California signed on to purchase grapes from Shea Vineyard. In the late 1990s Dick and Deirdre created a second entity, Shea Wine Cellars, to try their hand at winemaking, and made the decision to move to Oregon to oversee the effort. Today they make 6,000 cases of wine, all from fruit sourced from Shea Vineyard. The remainder of Shea Vineyard's grape production (approximately 70%) is still sold to other wineries, and the Shea's plan to maintain that balance. Over the years both the winery and vineyard have received accolades in the press, including a "96" rating from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate for the 2008 Shea Wine Cellars Pinot Noir Homer, the highest rating the Advocate has ever given an Oregon wine. Wine Enthusiast magazine named Shea Vineyard an "American Grand Cru". This is the Shea's first time participating at the NWWF. (www.sheawinecellars.com)

Pablo Álvarez is a member of the family that owns Vega Sicilia, and is currently the director of the winery group. This young man, completely given to absolute respect for quality, maintains a feeling of sincere admiration for the wines of Vega Sicilia and is efficiently directing the Alión, Tokaj Oremus and Alquiriz companies. Without letting himself be carried away by his passion for wine, he applies the rigour and scrupulousness in this microcosm of four unique wineries as if they were sacred precepts. Vega Sicilia's wines have earned consistent ratings from Robert Parker, Jr.; some as high as 99 points. This will be Vega Sicilia's sixth time participating in the NWWF (2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 & 2010). (www.vega-sicilia.com)