

They had a vision of seeing people sitting on a porch swing holding a glass of wine - their wine



Contact Persons: Ernie and Kristel Bell
Onemapple Vineyard and Winery
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Varieties: 6 acres of Chardonnay, 3 acres of Merlot, 3 acres mixed of Cabernet, Syrah, Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, and Tempranillo; Total vines: 9,000

Ernie and Kristel Bell had a vision, and that vision was seeing people sitting on a porch swing with a glass of wine (Ernie's wine) in their hands overlooking a dazzling and stunning vineyard, or a natural picturesque scene.

Onemapple Vineyard is located in the plentiful water area of Lewiston. The Bells started preparing 12-acres of their 35-acre property for growing in 1997 and planted a year later.

The name Onemapple came from a time Ernie went back to his hometown back east about 30 years ago.

He brought back several maple trees from Vermont and New Hampshire, and only one survived.

The one that did was kept in a pot for many years and now overlooks their vineyard.

Ernie became interested in the wine making business after years of working as a real estate agent in Weaverville.

As he grew tired of working for other people, he decided he wanted to work for himself, and he knew he wanted to make wine for people to enjoy.

He also knew that he wanted this vineyard and winery to become com-

mercial, but also to be able to share his expertise and his fine tasting wines with family and friends.

The couple obtain help from their family and friends, but Tony Miller, their son-in-law, is very active in this business and they consider him their vineyard manager.

Miller oversees harvest time and much more.

Ernie and Kristel took classes at UC Davis and also rely on their consultant Keith Groves of Alpen Cellars for knowledge.

After years of becoming educated, the Bells began selling their grapes to businesses such as Alpen Cellars and Rutherford Wineries, formally known as Round Hill, from Napa. They also decided to open up a tasting room.

The Bells new winery has been certified and bonded and is "just coming up out of the ground," Ernie said with excitement.

They plan to open the doors this summer to their winery and their tasting room.

The tasting room will be in an enjoyable area alongside the Grass Valley Creek, with a little walkway along the creek, a lawn area, a nice

open area for people to sit and relax, enjoy the scenery and taste wine.

The Bells feel their favorite part of the whole process would be harvest time.

However, the least favorite is the rigorous and time consuming work of pruning, especially when it is cold.

After the accumulations of hard labor and sore fingers, they are then rewarded with a good fine wine.

The Bells note what others have said about venturing into the wine business.

Make sure you have a deep pocket book. For those wanting it as a hobby, keep the vineyard to one acre, and not over two.

Looking into this as a business respect, it is a long-term investment and a lot of work. Plan to keep busy in this field, but, they added, the enjoyment and rewards are plentiful.

Ernie and Kristel would like the public to know they plan on holding special occasions at their winery and vineyard.

They urge people to stop by, feel comfortable, go fishing, and enjoy the views.

-Kat Andrews