

Our Story: Ken and Becky Jacroux of BeckenRidge Vineyard

In the fall of 1997, Ken and Becky saw the beginning of a dream for which they were ready to trade in their 30-year corporate careers. Their friend and owner of Airlie Winery asked them to stop by their “other” vineyard in Dallas, Oregon. The old vine vineyard, established in 1978, had been producing great fruit for Airlie Winery, Monmouth, OR for about eight years. Although the Airlie staff had kept the vines healthy and productive, the property in general had been left to deteriorate over the past several years as the original owner aged and finally retired. Somehow we saw past the overgrown grass, discarded junk, and sagging trellis system to the beautiful panoramic view and the potential for a home and start-up business.

We were energized at the prospect of building a custom home and starting a small business enterprise, to trade in traffic jams and a high-rise office for riding a big green tractor in the clean country air. After extensive market research, we discovered a huge demand for an event facility in a vineyard setting. We dubbed our dream “BeckenRidge Vineyard” after its owners - Becky and Ken, and in November of 1998 commenced the project of cleaning up the property, restoring the vineyard trellis system and building a custom home. In September of 1999, the event center was completed and proudly embraced by the community as the ideal location for local meetings and celebrations. And we found that 2000 was “the year” for weddings, perfect timing for launching our new business.

Additional improvements made over the past thirteen years include: 2003 - built an addition to the house which currently is used as guest quarters, office, and groom’s room for events; 2004 - established a 47,000-gallon reservoir fed by rain water and well back-fill for landscape irrigation; 2005 - dug a second well; and 2006 - grafted two acres of chardonnay/cabernet franc vines to gewurztraminer.

Since then, we have celebrated over 600 weddings plus many anniversaries, retirements, bar mitzvahs, celebrations of life, business retreats, and more. And the vineyard has continued to produce high quality wine grapes for Airlie’s many award-winning wines. The dream was even more rewarding than anticipated, but after thirteen years, we are ready for the next season of our lives - to spend more time in our home in Arizona, travel, and do volunteer work.