



Profile: Kerry Eddy

Kerry (Willerton) Eddy is a fifth generation Californian growing up in the San Francisco Bay area. Kerry attended UC Davis playing “way too much soccer” and nurturing her love of art and teaching. It was after a summer job at her cousin’s wine wholesale business in Hawaii in 1978 that she discovered her calling in the wine industry.

That fateful summer gave Kerry the chance to learn about wine from the sales side. She worked as a wholesale representative for Bacchus Imports in Honolulu while attending wine courses taught by industry luminaries Ronn Wiegand and Eddie Osterlund.

At the same time she was building her wine knowledge, Kerry was honing her olfactory skills, as well. Following her Bacchus experience, she became the first female sommelier at the Pacific Beach Hotel in Waikiki, educating her palate at night and keeping her dive certificate current during the day. She continued her training as a sommelier at the Hyatt Waikiki, where wines such as the 1920 Chateau de Yquem, and various vintages of Mouton Rothschild, Dom Perignon, Roederer Crystal and memorable Portos, taught her about classic character and flavor.

In the early-1980s, wine master Kevin Zraly, impressed by Kerry’s background and experience, interviewed her for a position at *Windows on the World* restaurant in New York. While she was in New York, Kerry happened to meet Marvin Shanken of M. Shanken Communications, who offered her a job as Director of Education & Information with his growing company, which included *The Wine Spectator*. She ended up working on organizing the first *California Wine Experience* and the *Wine Spectator* Restaurant Wine List Awards. Kerry eventually expanded distribution, direct sales and promotions for M. Shanken Communications publications, including *Impact Reports*, *Market Watch* and *The Wine Spectator*, throughout the US and Bordeaux.

Kerry met Tom at a media-only wine tasting in New York City in 1983. Their extensive wine backgrounds meshed immediately. Eight months later Tom proposed and Kerry moved back to California, and to the *Wine Spectator*’s west coast office in San Francisco. In 1989, a year after Kerry and Tom’s daughter, Haley, was born, Kerry left *The Wine Spectator* and devoted her free time to her family and her love of art. She still teaches art part-time in Napa Valley schools as well as working in her professional sculpture studio she began in 1993.

Kerry is committed to sustainable agriculture and practices those techniques in her substantial garden. Kerry and Tom will use similar practices when they plant their vineyard, as well. Kerry continues work on projects such as research and artwork for the Tom Eddy New Zealand (TENZ) and Elodian wine labels, tasting with Tom and the team, and traveling to promote Tom Eddy Wines throughout the U.S.