

WATERFIRE VINEYARDS

TORCH LAKE, MICHIGAN



Owners Chantal Lefebvre and Mike Newman, along with their son Nate, planted the first vines in 2009. Now close to 9,000 vines; Sauvignon Blanc, Gruner Veltliner and Riesling are thriving on a ridge that hovers over Torch Lake.

Chantal's education and prior experience is in environmental science and oceanography. She worked for 11 years as a coastal scientist in Boston. Mike's background is in the legal and financial areas.

"I always wanted to try my hand at farming. I had to reinvent myself when we moved from Boston and once I started working in the vineyard and wine cellar, I just knew this was where I belonged."

- Chantal

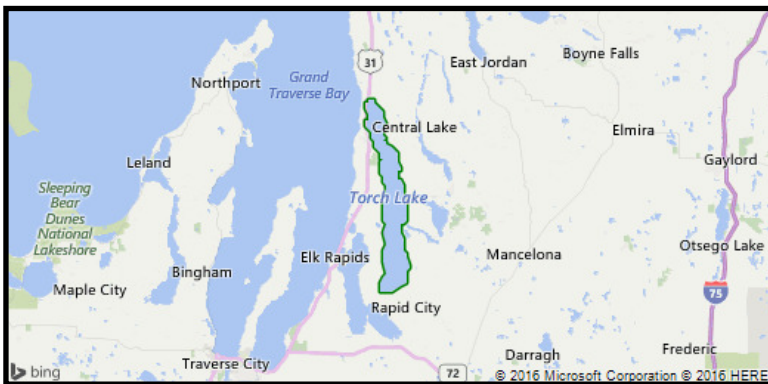
From there she began working in local vineyards and became a cellar assistant with Bryan Ulbrich, winemaker at Left Foot Charley, spending four harvests with him and learning about winemaking and the importance of viticulture in the cellar.

WaterFire wines are guided by Bryan Ulbrich of Left Foot Charley, who complements our fruit with his own unique talents and love of wine. He is without doubt a top tier winemaker in Michigan, and we value his inherent ability to structure elegant and aromatic wines.

Our relationship with Bryan is simple and synergistic: we bring him balanced and flavorful fruit and he helps us structure a provocative wine--every time.

TORCH LAKE, ANTRIM COUNTY

The climate, elevation, and temperature moderating effects of the lake are similar to Old Mission, where grape-growing land is at a premium. But the soil is a bit different, not as sandy and more varied with veins of clay and silt that are sprinkled with glacial rocks. This difference might be why the wines have a signature mid-palate that provides for complexity, despite their youth. Time will tell how the terroir of these Antrim hills will impact the wines and practices.



"The more you know about wine, the more you'll want to know about us."

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