BETZ FAMILY WINERY
Washington State

It has been five years since Bob and Cathy Betz stunned Washington wine lovers with the announcement that they had sold acclaimed Betz Family Winery.

A half-decade later, the winery is evolving under the ownership of Steve and Bridgit Griessel, the South African expats who continue to throw all of their considerable energy into learning the wine business.
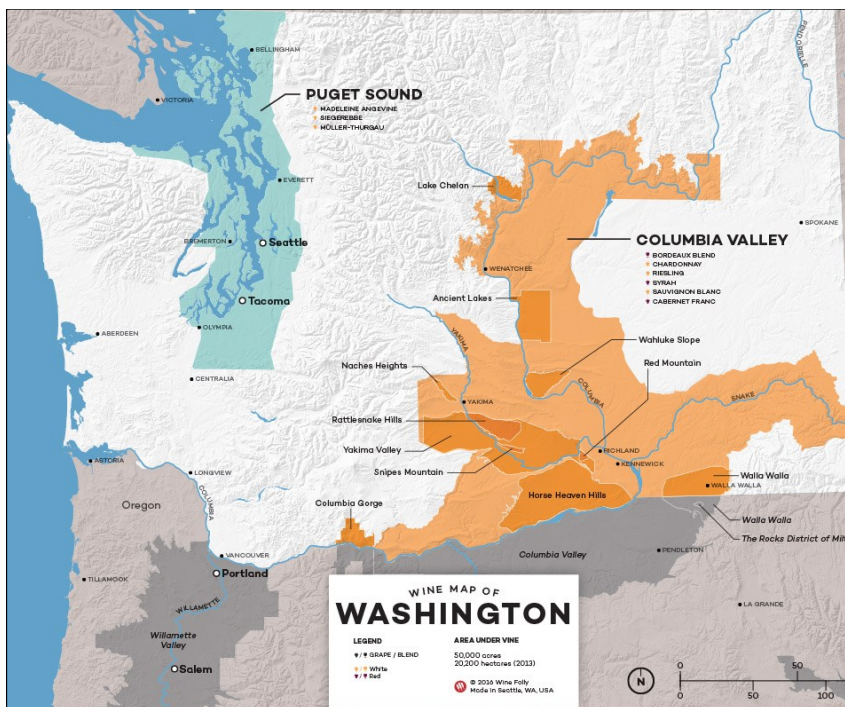

Meanwhile, founding winemaker Bob Betz has slowly stepped away from the heavy lifting of running a winery since he announced in April 2011 that he and Cathy had sold the winery they began in 1997.

Today, Betz Family Winery doesn't look a lot different than it did five years ago.   It's still at the same address just five minutes up the road from Chateau Ste. Michelle – where Betz began his storied career in the wine industry. Betz's classic wines based on Bordeaux and Rhône varieties remain the focus, and they still gather the same acclaim – if not more – from wine critics worldwide.

But the Griessels have begun to add their own touches to the winery and are slowly building upon the Betz legacy while quietly adding their fingerprints.   In the cellar, Betz has been joined by Louis Skinner, who now is succeeding him as head winemaker.

Steve Griessel still is in awe that he was able to purchase the winery. It had long been his goal to enter the wine industry, and landing at Betz was beyond even his lofty expectations.

Since its first vintange in 1997, Betz Family Winery has had a single-minded goal of crafting compelling wines with individual character that are approacha-ble and age-worthy, and which showcase Washington as a distinguished wine region of the world.

By carving out specific vineyard blocks and being meticulous in the vineyard and cellar they are able to achieve the quality they aspire to, the result being highly-acclaimed wines that compete on the world stage. As importantly over the years our winery culture has become a way of life in which everyone – our growers, winery team and customers are family.