

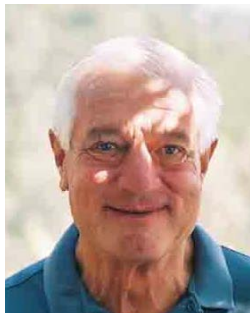
BURGESS

NAPA VALLEY



Biographies

Tom Burgess



Tom Burgess was born in 1939 and grew up in a Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio – a suburb of Akron. After graduating from high school, he decided to continue his education and attend Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. While at the university, he enrolled in the Air Force R.O.T.C. program and, in 1961, graduated with a degree in aeronautics. Tom received his second lieutenant rank upon graduation and went into pilot training for the Air Force. It was during this period in his life that his love of food, wine and the Napa Valley began.

As an Air Force pilot in the mid-1960's, one of his many destinations was Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif. – near the still rural Napa Valley. When time permitted, he began to explore the surrounding wine country and soon his explorations became regular visits to the Napa Valley. After Tom resigned from the Air Force in 1967, he became a corporate pilot for IBM and moved to the East Coast, where he was based. Through the years, he continued to visit and explore Napa and, in 1972, he decided to change careers and become a vintner.

Tom purchased a 100-year-old winery and vineyard on the western side of Howell Mountain, just east of Saint Helena, Calif., in the heart of the Napa Valley. In the ensuing years, he and winemaker Bill Sorenson repaired and renovated the winery facility and replanted the vineyards. They also acquired additional vineyard land south of Yountville and, in the 1980s, established the winery's third vineyard on the eastern side of Howell Mountain, directly above Pope Valley. Throughout the years, the 100-year-old winery has been renovated and modernized and has evolved to accommodate the productions of 28,000 cases of estate-grown, Napa Valley wines.

Tom himself wears many hats at Burgess Cellars: general manager, president, works in marketing, and he also drives a truck and operates the forklift during harvest. As needed, he also substitutes as the winery's resident carpenter and all-around handyman.

When not busy at the winery, Tom spends his free time riding his bike, barbecuing, flying, skiing and boating. He also travels to continue learning about world wine regions and to experience French and Italian culture. Tom has two sons, Steve and Jim, who both were born and raised at the winery property. Steve now works at Burgess Cellars in sales and marketing. Jim is a vineyard manager for a prestigious St. Helena winery. Tom also enjoys spending time with his three grandchildren, who he says bring him much delight, and is active with the alumni from Miami University as well as with friends from his Air Force career.