



NEYERS



BRUCE & BARBARA NEYERS

Bruce Neyers was born in Wilmington, DE in December 1946, where he grew up with his older sister. They were the children of two working parents. He graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1968, and then worked briefly as a production chemist for Budd-Polychem. Having been in ROTC and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation, he spent two years under military commitment beginning in January 1969. He trained at the Army Officer's Guided Missile School in El Paso, Texas and was then assigned to South Korea where he eventually commanded an air-defense guided missile Battery along the DMZ. In May 1970, he was reassigned to the Presidio of San Francisco, and later honorably discharged in January 1971. While he had no formal wine industry training, he was interested in the subject. Bruce learned of a French wine importing company in San Francisco, Connoisseur Wine Imports, that he began visiting. Soon after his discharge he was offered a job at the company. Bruce's wife Barbara also grew up in Wilmington, DE and they married in August 1967, while undergraduate students at the University of Delaware. Barbara was hired as an elementary school teacher after their move to San Francisco, and together they enjoyed the lives of people actively involved in the emerging wine and food business in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Bruce worked at Connoisseur Wine Imports for a year before accepting a job at Mayacamas Winery in the Napa Valley in January 1972. He spent two years at Mayacamas as an assistant winemaker to Bob Travers, and while employed there attended school under the extension work-study program at UC Davis. In April 1974, Bruce and Barbara moved to the Nahe region in Germany where he worked as an apprentice winemaker, returning to the US in March 1975. Upon his return that same month, Bruce was hired by Joe Phelps; who at that time was starting the winery that bears his name. He worked there for 17 years, leaving in 1992 as general manager. In 1984, Barbara and Bruce bought a 35-acre parcel in Conn Valley, and began development for vineyards with the idea of starting their own winery. A few days after resigning from Phelps, Bruce was offered and accepted the newly created position of National Sales Manager for Berkeley-based importer, Kermit Lynch. He has held that job since June 1992, and now oversees the national distribution of wines from over 200 family-owned wineries in France and Italy.

Barbara continued her career as a teacher for a few more years, but in 1979 began pursuing her love of food and cooking, accepting a position as a chef, and eventually manager, at Chez Panisse Restaurant in Berkeley. She worked there for 20 years. The Neyers raised their three children on their ranch in the Conn Valley area of the Napa Valley, where they now grow grapes. Together they manage the winery, which is now a joint venture with Trinchero Family Estates.