



LITTLE FARM WINERY

RHYS PENDER MW & ALISHAN DRIEDIGER LAUNCH LITTLE FARM WINERY

May 22, 2013. Cawston, Similkameen Valley, British Columbia, Canada.

Little Farm Winery is the culmination of a dream to produce expressive, single vineyard wines for Master of Wine Rhys Pender and his partner Alishan Driediger. Their Mulberry Tree Vineyard was planted in 2009 with a range of Chardonnay and Riesling clones on the calcium carbonate rich soils of Cawston in the Similkameen Valley. The first wines, made with little manipulation to express the vineyard, were released in 2011. The 2012 vintage, just 190 cases combined of Riesling, Chardonnay and a Rosé, was released last week. The tiny quantities of wine are now available in British Columbia restaurants, retailers and through www.littlefarmwinery.ca.

"Having completed the Master of Wine and gained such a strong understanding of the business, I should have known better than to start making wine," says co-owner Rhys Pender MW. "But there is such a strong draw to take an interesting vineyard site, plant it from scratch and nurture the grapes and let that site be expressed in the wine that we simply couldn't not do it." Rhys and Alishan look after every aspect of the four-acre Mulberry Tree Vineyard at their home in Cawston. "We must touch every single vine dozens of times a year," says Pender, "we know every inch of the vineyard intimately."

The wines are made by co-owner Alishan Driediger with the goal of making expressive wines that are messed with as little as possible. "When you grow great grapes, you just want to see what they taste like as wine," says Driediger. "To do this we try to do as little as possible with the winemaking and let the vineyard shine through." Alishan is passionate about making intensely flavoured expressive wines. Her background includes 14 years working in the food and wine industries. She studied in the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at UBC, has a certificate in winemaking from the University of Guelph, and is currently studying winemaking through the University of California Davis.

Rhys and Alishan have spent many years in the wine and food industry. Rhys is an established wine writer, judge, consultant and educator and Alishan is known for her amazing bread which she still makes and sells at the Penticton Farmers' Market every Saturday. They always wanted to get their hands and boots dirty, grow organic grapes and make expressive wines. And so Little Farm Winery was born. The goal is never to get big but to make wines from the ground up, literally. In 2011 just 56 cases were produced with 190 cases (25 cases Chardonnay, 55 Riesling and 110 Rosé) in 2012. Production will peak at around 600 cases. Wines are currently available in some of Vancouver's and the Okanagan's top restaurants and wine shops or online via www.littlefarmwinery.ca.

The first two vintages were made off-site in a friend's winery while production is currently underway for a small facility at Mulberry Tree Vineyard that should be ready for the 2013 harvest. The Mulberry Tree Vineyard shows the complex side of the Similkameen Valley. The calcium carbonate soils, the intense sunshine and the often vicious wind make for concentrated flavours in small clusters of grapes. The soil gives a distinct minerality to both the Chardonnay and Riesling wines.

More information on Little Farm Winery, Rhys Pender MW and Alishan Driediger as well as the wines is available at www.littlefarmwinery.ca.

Contact:

Rhys Pender MW
Mobile: - 250.317.8796

Alishan Driediger
Mobile: 250.506.0096

On-line: info@littlefarmwinery.ca

www.littlefarmwinery.ca

ABOUT LITTLE FARM WINERY

Little Farm Winery is the small hands-on operation of Rhys Pender MW and Alishan Driediger. It started with a passion for wine and developed into growing and producing Chardonnay and Riesling from their Mulberry Tree Vineyard at their home in Cawston, BC in the beautiful Similkameen Valley. The goal was always to make wines with minimal manipulation and intervention that really capture the vineyard site and each year's unique growing season. The vines were planted in 2009 on the calcium carbonate rich soil and braving the unforgiving Similkameen sun and wind. The first wines were made in 2011.

Little Farm Winery will never be big and will always focus on making small batches of single-vineyard wine that reflect each site's unique characteristics. The goal is to make interesting, characterful, natural-ish wines and look after our little farm.

Rhys Pender MW, Wine Grower

Alishan Driediger, Winemaker

