

WASHINGTON

WINTER 2009/2010

TASTING ROOM™

The magazine for
people who love
wine tasting

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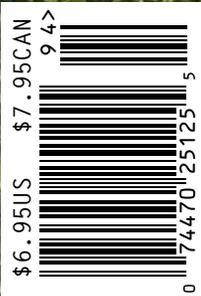
WINERY TOURS

in Tri-Cities
and Lake Chelan

109

**Wine & Food
Activities**

**Winemaker Dinners
Holiday Festivals
Red Wine & Chocolate
Cooking Classes & more**





BECOMING *Jane*

An intimate
interview with JANE
PEARSON, whose
paintings portray
the essence of
living on TAPTEIL
VINEYARD

DESCRIBE THE THEME BEHIND YOUR WORK When I married Larry and moved to Tapteil Vineyard here on Red Mountain in 2004, he encouraged me to take time to pursue my own art. We live and breathe wine, so naturally, the making and enjoyment of it and the lifestyle that surrounds it are the basis for my work.

FAVORITE MEDIUM? Acrylic, but there have been years that I have focused on my sculpture and jewelry. I'm an avid photographer as well.

WHEN DID YOU REALIZE YOU WANTED TO BE AN ARTIST? It sounds silly, but early in my teens I had a dream that was very realistic. In that dream, I was sitting on top of our family's garage painting the landscape before me. There are no artists in my family and I grew up in a very small farming community in Ohio, so I had no exposure to the art scene. I was painting with such ease and confidence in the dream

I was convinced that I could do the same in real life.

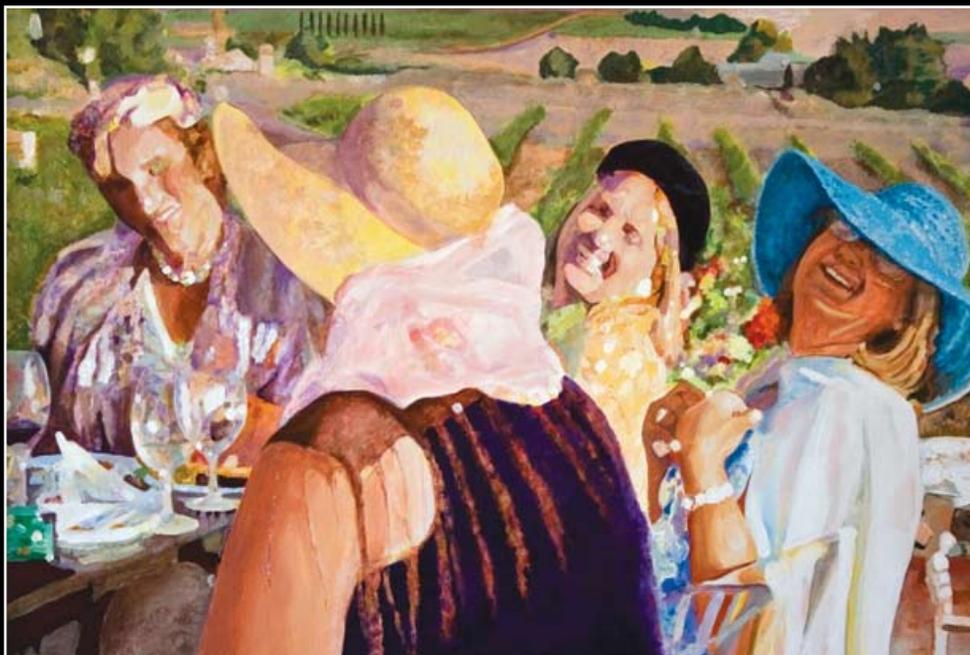
HOW DID YOUR PAINTINGS END UP ON TAPTEIL WINE LABELS? In 2005, we were about to release our first Syrah from our Spilya Vineyard, Yakima Valley and our Syrah/Cabernet Franc blend, Red Mountain. Larry suggested we use *Wine Soiree'* on the labels and the artist series began. I had completed a second painting, *The Hat Party*, and when it was time to bottle the 2006 Syrah, it seemed natural to feature that on the new label. You'll see *Tapteil Harvest* on the new 2007 Syrah, and away we go!

WHERE DO YOU DRAW INSPIRATION? All I have to do is open my eyes each morning. We are fortunate to live on a vineyard in a stunningly beautiful place. I guess the inspiration is that I get to be a part of it. My husband had a vision and found a way to create his dream; he'd be the first to say, "*with a lot of help from friends and family.*"

« Wine Soiree' »

"This painting was inspired from a photo taken of my bachelorette party. When I saw the photo I was struck by the flowing composition and the play of light. I love that 'looking through the keyhole' feel, the strong contrasts of light and dark and warm rich color."

Pictured in the painting (from left to right): Barb Pearson, my sister-in-law, Ceona Chitwood, a friend and neighbor, Patt Pearson, my mother-in-law and Kelly Hightower (Hightower Winery), my next door neighbor and pal.



« Hat Party »

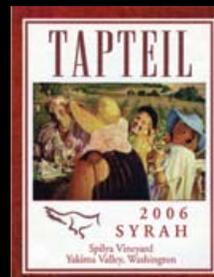
"The theme behind *The Hat Party* is friends and family enjoying wine, food and each other's company. We work hard at the vineyard, but when we finally stop to relax we enjoy the fruits of our labor. One of the things we so enjoy about our industry is the convivial nature of the wine business. We also live in the world's best neighborhood surrounded by the beauty of the vineyards, our best friends living on each side of us, and family just down the road."

Pictured in the painting (left to right): Vicky Williams, Barb Pearson (back to us), Kelly Hightower and Barb McMinn.



« Tapteil Harvest »

"In *Tapteil Harvest*, our hard-working vineyard crew and my husband, Larry, are unloading a couple of tons of grapes, destined to become Tapteil wine. The large white bins in the background await a truck to take them to the other wineries to which we sell grapes. Over ninety tons of grapes come off our vineyards each year in the course of a few weeks, all picked by hand. These folks have been with us for many years and the success of our operation depends on them. My mother-in-law loved to say, 'There is more to wine than just popping a cork!'" Pictured in the painting are: Vineyard foreman, Genero Cazerres (far right) counting the blue lugs of grapes as they are about to be weighed, then (left to right) Larry Pearson, Jose, Florenceo and Guadalupe.



Now he and I work together on our dream, still with a lot of help from friends and family. I could paint for a hundred years and not be able to capture all that goes on around me.

WHAT PAST EXPERIENCE PREPARED YOU FOR THE WINE BUSINESS? I used to do a lot of theater; I've performed in over 15 plays and directed several more. It is a great background for a winery person, all that coordinating, music selection, set building and creating an experience for the theatergoer. Now I live the "show," it is all around me everyday—and it is heaven.

WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING ON A VINEYARD? The whole place is like a blank palette...flowers to be planted, parties to plan, photo opportunities galore, food to prepare, paintings to be painted. It's cooking, gardening, photography and theater all at once, all

passions of mine and all shared with the man of my dreams.

FAVORITE CREATIVE OUTLETS? I love to garden, which for me is like painting. It pretty much takes over all of my creative time in the summer. I adore foreign films and I'm learning Spanish.

HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR HUSBAND? His sister, Jacquie, and I had been friends for years, and she often talked about a vineyard that her brother owned. In 2001, Jacquie invited me to cross the mountains to come to the first Tapteil *Catch the Crush* weekend with her. When the date finally approached, I had another engagement, but felt I had to go as promised. I had no idea when I walked through the door and was introduced to Larry that I would fall in love on the spot. He literally had me at *Hello!* I stayed the whole weekend and canceled my other date. 🌿



Winemaker Larry and Jane Pearson were married at Tapteil Vineyard in 2004, and the rest is still history in the making!

art & WINE TASTING

Tapteil Vineyard Winery

The end of Sunset Road, Benton City. Posters of *The Hat Party* and *Wine Soiree'* are available for purchase.

Open Fri, Sat, Sun, April-Dec, 11am-5pm (509) 588-4460, www.tapteil.com