DEPARTMENT OF VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY

WEEKLY VITICULTURE-ENOLOGY 199 FALL SEMINAR SERIES WEBINAR

Wednesdays from noon to 1 pm *— On ZOOM — Visit fresnostate.edu/jcast/ve for details

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021

FEATURING RANDALL GRAHM

President and Winemaker

Vigneron, Popelouchum Vineyard, San Juan Bautista, CA

Randall Grahm attended the University of California at Santa Cruz where he was a semi-permanent Liberal Arts major. Later, while working in a fancy wine shop in Beverly Hills sweeping floors, he was given the opportunity to taste an ungodly number of great French wines; this singular experience turned him into a complete and insufferable wine fanatic. He returned to UC Davis to finish a degree in Plant Sciences in 1979, where owing to his single-minded obsession with Pinot Noir he was regarded as a bit of a holy *terroir* in the Department of Viticulture and Enology.

With his family's assistance, Randall purchased property in the Santa Cruz Mountains in a quaint eponymous hamlet known as **Bonny Doon**, intent on producing the Great American Pinot Noir. The GAPN proved to be systematically elusive but he was greatly encouraged by experimental batches of Rhône varieties he produced there, and he has been a tireless champion of the grapes of the Rhône since the inaugural vintage of Le Cigare Volant.

In 1989 Randall appeared on the cover of the Wine Spectator as "The Rhône Ranger." In 1991 Randall was inducted into the Who's Who of Cooking in America by Cook's Magazine and in the same year had an asteroid named in his honor. He was proclaimed the Wine and Spirits Professional of the Year by the James Beard Foundation in 1994 and received another award from the Beard Foundation for his book, "Been Doon So Long: A Randall Grahm Vinthology" in 2009. In 2010 the Culinary Institute of America inducted him into the Vintner's Hall of Fame. In 2010, he purchased an extraordinary 400-acre property near San Juan Bautista, which he calls "**Popelouchum,"** and has very ambitious plans to breed 10,000 new grape varieties there and perhaps produce a true *vin de terroir* in the New World.

He sold his majority interest in Bonny Doon Vineyard at year-end of 2019. The Language of Yes project, initiated with the 2020 vintage in collaboration with E. & J. Gallo Winery, captures Randall's passion for exploring the possibilities of both the classical and more arcane varieties of southern France in the Central Coast of California.



Some Thoughts on Producing a Wine of Place in California

For more info, contact instructor Dr. Luca Brillante at lucabrillante@csufresno.edu or call the Department of Viticulture & Enology at 559 278-2089.

** Excluding November 24—Thanksgiving week*

For our Fall 2021 Seminar Series schedule and details, visit fresnostate.edu/jcast/ve

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