



# Sokol Blosser

DUNDEE HILLS, OREGON

*Est. 1971*

## Sokol Blosser Winery Timeline

- 1966** Bill Blosser and Susan Sokol graduate from Stanford in June and get married in August.
- 1970** In December, Bill and Susan have their first child, Nik, and purchase their first piece of land to start a vineyard.
- 1971** The Sokol Blossers clear the land and plant winegrape cuttings in a nursery row.
- 1973** Bill and Susan build a home in a corner of the vineyard, the first home of their own.
- 1974** In January, their second son, Alex, is born.
- 1977** Construction is finished on Sokol Blosser Winery in time for its first vintage.
- 1979** Sokol Blosser wines win international recognition at the International Wine & Spirits Competition in London with six wines, including several golds. In December, the third child, Alison, is born.
- 1980** Vineyard acreage expands to 72 acres. Bill leaves his planning job to be the winery's full time president and Susan starts managing the vineyards.
- 1983** Sokol Blosser Vineyards honored by the U.S. Soil and Water Conservation District because of Susan's work with experimental cover crops to control erosion on hillside vineyards.
- 1991** Bill Blosser returns to planning and Susan becomes president of Sokol Blosser. "The French Paradox" airs on CBS's Sixty Minutes.
- 1993** Mystery writer Robert B. Parker publishes *Paper Doll*, which mentions Sokol Blosser: *"I was alone in a cell about 8 by 10 feet in the cellar of the courthouse...I wondered if anyone was going to give me supper, and decided that they weren't. They wanted me to be isolated and hungry and in the dark down here while my resolve atrophied...I thought about football...Mel Torme...The Four Seasons in New York, and Sokol Blosser Pinot Noir...."*
- 1995** *Oregon Business Magazine* lists Sokol Blosser winery as one of the top 100 best companies to work for in Oregon. Sokol Blosser is the only winery and the smallest company listed.
- 1996** Sokol Blosser is the first winery to be certified "Salmon-Safe", a program launched by the Pacific Rivers Council to publicize products produced without using pesticides and causing runoff that would harm salmon.
- 1997** To celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Sokol Blosser inaugurates a new label design. The same year, the winery joins Low Input Viticulture and Enology (LIVE), a new international sustainable viticulture program run through Oregon State University.

Continued...

- 1998** Alex Sokol Blosser comes back to work at Sokol Blosser and Russ Rosner joins as winemaker. Small lot bottlings of individual blocks of Pinot Noir introduced with the 1998 vintage.
- 1999** New grape handling equipment, including press, destemmer, and sorting line upgrade production. Last vintage of Chardonnay produced at Sokol Blosser and Chardonnay vines are pulled out.
- 2000** Thirty new acres of Pinot Noir planted, using Dijon clones 777,667, 115, as well as the Pommard clone.
- 2001** May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001 issue of *The Wine Spectator* features Sokol Blosser and its Pinot Noir renaissance.
- 2002** Underground barrel cellar becomes the first winery building in the country to receive the prestigious U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. Sokol Blosser starts its official organic certification transition.
- 2004** Alison Sokol Blosser joins the family business.
- 2005** Dundee Hills becomes an official American Viticultural Area and Sokol Blosser releases the first wine in Oregon to be labeled with the new appellation: Sokol Blosser 2002 Dundee Hills Pinot Noir. In September, Sokol Blosser receives full USDA organic certification for its 72-acre estate vineyard.
- 2006** Sokol Blosser celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> harvest and Susan's first person history, [At Home in the Vineyard: Cultivating a Winery, an Industry, and a Life](#), was published by the University of California Press.
- 2007** A 25kW photovoltaic solar panel system, which furnishes 33% of the business's total production energy needs, went live. The family also made its first land purchase in 30 years - 20 acres of neighboring Dundee Hills land called Blackberry Block.
- 2008** After over a year of slowly taking over daily operations from Susan, the transition from first to second generation continues with Alex and Alison becoming Co-Presidents on January 2, 2008.
- 2009** Sokol Blosser becomes certified by Oregon Certified Sustainable Wine (OCSW).
- 2011** Sokol Blosser celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> year in business.
- 2012** Construction began on new Tasting Room, designed by Allied Works, on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012. As part of the 2012 harvest, Alex Sokol Blosser becomes winemaker while Russ Rosner retires.
- 2013** The new Tasting Room, designed by Allied Works, opens on July 1, 2013.
- 2013** Alex Sokol Blosser becomes head winemaker
- 2014** Alison Sokol Blosser is named CEO
- 2015** Sokol Blosser Winery becomes B Corp Certified