

TAYLOR FAMILY

vineyards

About Our Family

In 1980 Jerry and Pat Taylor, along with their children Scott, Sandy, and Mike, planted a 9-acre vineyard on their family land on their hands and knees. Since then, just about every member of the Taylor's extended family has helped out in the vineyard or with the winemaking. The story of Taylor Family Vineyards has been one of extraordinary family cooperation and dedication, driven by a familial spunk that is apparent in all three generations that continue to build this family's legacy.



Jerry and Pat Taylor

Jerry Taylor, the family patriarch, has lived in Napa County since 1933. He grew up on his family's farm, which instilled in him a love and respect for farming. Jerry joined the Air Force and spent time serving as an aircraft mechanic during the Korean War. He met his wife Pat when he returned, and they were married in 1955.

Jerry spent years working in construction, helping build notable bridges and buildings around the San Francisco Bay Area. Pat and Jerry had two sons, Scott and Mike, and a daughter, Sandy. While the children grew up in a house outside of Yountville, Jerry and Pat harbored a dream that one day they would be able to return to the land and to Jerry's love of farming.

In 1976 the dream became a reality when the family purchased a 23-acre ranch in the Stags Leap District of the Napa Valley. The vineyard was planted in 1980 and by 1993 Jerry was able to leave his day job to concentrate on his passion. He works full time and then some as the vineyard manager for Taylor Family Vineyards. Pat still works as a respected real estate agent in Napa Valley, helping other families achieve their dreams of owning their own vineyards.



Phil and Sandy Carlson

The next generation was the driving force behind the creation of Taylor Family Vineyards as a wine brand. Jerry and Pat's daughter Sandy was born and raised in Napa Valley. With an academic background in finance, Sandy learned about the business of wine by working for a number of prestigious Napa wineries.

Sandy's husband Phil Carlson is a Naval Academy graduate and commercial airline pilot. Phil began spending his time on the ground as an apprentice of Jerry, learning everything he could about grapegrowing, which became an unexpected but all consuming passion once it was introduced into his life.

Sandy's business acumen and Phil's dedication sparked the idea that the family should create a legacy for itself by making their own wine from the grapes which they were so dedicated to growing. As the Taylors had planted the vineyard, it was fitting to name the brand Taylor Family Vineyards. To integrate the next generation into the brand, Sandy chose to use airplanes for the brand's logo and for some of its wine names out of respect for Phil's career as well as both Phil and Jerry's military service to their country. Today, Phil and Sandy live in Napa. While Phil works in the vineyard whenever he can, Sandy is dedicated full time to Taylor Family Vineyards, and handles everything that needs to be managed besides the vineyard in order to make and sell the high quality wines for which the family is fast becoming known.