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New wineries come to Caldwell

Périple, Sequence move to University of Idaho Food and Technology incubator

CALDWELL — A bottle of Sanford Pinot Noir altered Angie Shaltry's life forever while she was living in Park City, Utah. It was love in a glass and led her to the wine country of Sonoma, California, where she started her journey toward making wine.

Shaltry has a degree in microbiology from the University of Idaho. She wanted to get involved with medicine. In a way, she has. "If you hand someone a glass of wine, they smile, they feel good," Shaltry said.

Now she will be part of two new wineries moving to the University of Idaho Business and Technology Incubator to complete the trifecta with Hat Ranch Winery, which resides at the incubator in Caldwell.

Tim Harless, owner of Hat Ranch Winery, pours a sample of the 2010 merlot at their winery at the University of Idaho Incubator in Caldwell.



Shaltry, with Périple Wines, will be joined by Kathryn House and Sequence Winery. House also runs House of Wine, a wine consulting and analysis laboratory that also offers wine education.

Caldwell Economic Development Director Steve Fultz said there has been a drive to grow and expand the wine industry in Idaho. "We believe that Caldwell is the portal, if you will, for that wine business," he said.

Business and Technology Incubator Director Jim Toomey said it is great to see the wine area of the incubator expand to full capacity. Within the next year or so, an area of the incubator will convert for wine-specific use, Toomey said, allowing wine production to ramp up.

"It's a real capital-intensive industry, but it's part of our commitment to value-added agriculture and really trying to help people make use of what's grown locally," Toomey said.

Shaltry's winery makes about 700 cases of wine per year. She makes a California Pinot Noir and a Cabernet blend, Chardonnay and Syrah that all come from Washington grapes.

"I only make the other things because not everybody likes Pinot Noir," she said. The name "Périple" means "odyssey" or "journey." Shaltry said it can be a journey working in a budding wine state like Idaho. She remembers having to buy Tri-Clover clamps, needed for her wine machinery, at a dairy supply store.

While her wines come from other states, they come back to the Gem State to be developed, finished and bottled, Shaltry said. "I spend a lot of time doing manual labor for the most part, but it's fun, and I think that is the best way to interact with the wine," she said.

House, who has a master's degree in horticulture, operates the only winetesting lab in Idaho. Winemakers can send samples in-state to test sugar, acid, nitrogen and sulfur levels, saving precious time.

With moving to Caldwell, House said her lab will be able to do more frequent sampling of the grapes in the Sunnyslope area.

House is also stepping out in 2014 and making her first vintage in Idaho, completely under her direction. She has always consulted with other wine makers and pushed for certain choices to be made, but now the reins are hers — a situation that is exciting and scary, House said.

Both winemakers said they are looking forward to moving to the incubator. House said she likes working in tandem and collectively with others. "Working with the University of Idaho has been a wonderful way to do that," she said.