



ANGELA ELAINE SUMMERS

OWNER | SAFFRON FIELDS VINEYARD

"I never set out to build a winery. Sanjeev and I fell in love with a piece of Oregon and planted a vineyard. Then we tasted the wine. What began as a shared dream became a place where wine, art, landscape and people come together."

Angela Elaine Summers is the owner of Saffron Fields Vineyard, an independently owned estate winery in Oregon's Yamhill-Carlton AVA. Becoming a vintner was never part of her original plan.

Angela and her late husband, Sanjeev Lahoti, first visited Oregon wine country in 2003. They bought an 89-acre former dairy and grass seed farm in 2004 and planted the vineyard in 2007, initially intending to grow grapes rather than make wine.

That changed after acclaimed winemaker Tony Rynders bought their first harvest. When Angela and Sanjeev barrel tasted the resulting wine in 2010, they began to see what the vineyard could become. The tasting room opened in 2013.

Following Sanjeev's death in 2020, Angela chose to continue the dream they created together while increasingly putting her own imprint on Saffron Fields. Today the estate produces limited quantities of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay and brings wine together with contemporary art, architecture and a five-acre Japanese garden designed by Hoichi Kurisu.

Angela brings an unusual perspective to wine. She is also a chemical engineer, entrepreneur and internationally recognized authority in process safety and automation. She founded SIS-TECH Solutions in 1999. Her engineering background shapes how she approaches the vineyard: observe carefully, understand the system, make decisions based on evidence and think about the long term.

MEDIA TOPICS

Oregon wine • Women in wine •
Entrepreneurship • Art & wine •
Gardens & wine • Hospitality •
Building a second business

SAFFRON FIELDS

Yamhill-Carlton AVA
Yamhill, Oregon
saffronfields.com

A LITTLE-KNOWN STORY

Angela and Sanjeev met Tony Rynders at their first International Pinot Noir Celebration in 2005. After hearing that they had bought a grass seed farm and planned to plant a vineyard, Tony wished them luck. Angela later found his lost name badge and told Sanjeev, "Tony is going to make our wine one day." Five years later, he did.

WHAT SHE LOVES MOST

Watching people discover Saffron Fields. Visitors arrive expecting a wine tasting, then encounter the garden, koi pond, contemporary art, architecture and vineyard together. Angela wants them to leave remembering not only the wine, but the place and the people they experienced it with.

ENGINEERING + WINE

Both require respect for complexity. A vineyard cannot be forced to become something it is not, and a complex engineered system cannot be understood by looking at one part in isolation. Observe, learn, make thoughtful decisions and recognize that small choices can have consequences years later.