

Dr. Tom Cottrell

He is the Enology Extension Specialist at the University of Kentucky. In this position, he works with establishing and developing wineries in Kentucky.

Dr. Cottrell, a native of Ithaca, NY, got started in the wine industry in 1970 in the Napa Valley, founding Cuvaison. Later he co-founded Pine Ridge Winery, and started several others as a consultant.

In 1982, Dr. Cottrell came to Geneva, NY as Cornell's first Associate Professor of Enology, became acquainted with winemaking in the East, and learned how to make 550 lots of wine in a season. Subsequently, he was the Manager/Winemaker for Chalk Hill Winery in Sonoma County, which he grew from 14,000 cases to 60,000 cases per year, and for Sakonnet Vineyards in Rhode Island, which he grew from 12,000 cases to 35,000 cases per year.

Returning to Ithaca in 1995, Dr. Cottrell now consults for wineries and winery start-ups in the Finger Lakes, on Long Island, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia, and other parts of the East.

In 2005 Tom was asked to serve as the Extension Enologist for the University of Kentucky, and moved to Lexington to do so. In this position he advises over 64 wineries in Kentucky as well as surrounding areas, manages extensive taste panel trials for experimental wines, works with the KY ABC and Ky. Dept. of Agriculture to develop better regulations, and works with Winery and Viticultural associations to develop educational programs.

Tom is a member of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture since 1970, he has served the Eastern Section as Secretary, and as a Director.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Physics from Cornell, a Master's Degree in Solid State Physics from the University of Delaware, and a Ph.D in Laser Optics from the University of Rochester.