



Meet Diane Buligion Mannion, Owner, Rasta Ranch Vineyards

After spending many years involved in the wine industry, Rasta Ranch Vineyards became a reality. We are a small, family run Farm Winery established in 1993, farming 42 acres on the eastern side of Seneca Lake. The present wine list is not dissimilar to the creation of these Finger Lakes themselves... In keeping with differing trends and refined palates, the original Labrusca vineyard (dating back to the late 1890's) has all been replanted to include Vinifera and French American Hybrid varietals.

The tasting room is housed in a really old barn, renovated to outfit a progression of thirsty wine lovers. There is so much packed into this space! Surrounded by extensive gardens (all of the plantings created in the nursery-now closed-that was a part of the vision even before the winery opened) we welcome young, old, ageless to enjoy a step back in time with us. And also a glass of wine!

Recurring throughout the year we host Sip and Shop (a monthly marketplace organized by Hector Handmade) and Creative Juices Workshops. In season (April-November) we host free live music twice a week with Monday Night Blues 5-8 and Sunday Sessions 2-5 featuring family talent (Brett Beardslee, Scott Adams, Michael Shaw) and always welcoming guest performances. Summer Sip and Shops and Monday Night Blues feature a local food truck, and our neighborhood pizza place (Scale House) delivers right to our back deck. Snacks like local meats and cheeses, games, ambiance, conversation, wine and even local beer allows anyone to turn a wine tasting into full blown event at Rasta Ranch Vineyards!

In keeping with the vast changes to our community and the wine industry, we celebrate other passions too...art, education, community and music to name a few. You can join us for live music 2 day a week in season, monthly Sip & Shop experience, classes and workshops on everything from making a gourd birdhouse to painting a wineglass. A stroll through the tasting room is an education in classic Rock & Roll.

The Memorial Vineyard is now fully planted and by summer's end a foot bridge will be added so anyone who so desires can enter the hallowed ground to commune with those past. It is with great love we grow for those gone before us...

The success of Rasta Ranch Vineyards is simply that we are different from other wineries. When we were established, we were just farmers trying to create additional markets for their grapes. We built this place slowly, while never wanting to change the 'feel' of the place. There are many people who have been coming here for the last 26 years and they always seem to marvel at the fact that we have indeed not changed, in philosophy anyway. There is no greater compliment or inspiration than seeing new generations come to be a part of our journey! Children have become parents and are now bringing their little ones here...so heartwarming!

It is sometimes hard to see how the industry has changed. With so many new places opening it seems the area is losing its 'quaintness'- which was a very big part of the original appeal. The traffic is too much for our roads, people with little respect for our community and the land itself are changing the feel.

My favorite thing about this area is the immense talent! So many amazing artists, musicians, writers....I love to share that with others too. While owning a business makes it difficult to spend much time off my own farm, I like to listen to music almost as much as I like to breathe!

It has been our tradition to donate to many worthy causes (Seneca Pure Waters, Gas Free Seneca, Humane Society, Salty Dog Rescue, Wounded Warriors, Habitat for Humanity, etc.) and we are now incredibly proud to support the Scholarship Fund in Engineering for (my dearly departed brother) Ray Buligion. We encourage your generosity too!

May the charm of a family run farm winery touch you!

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