

## **How I'm Trying to Grow Better Wine.... Jim Law/Linden Vineyards**

### **Long term decisions:**

1. recognizing soil/site/vine relationships:
  - cold soils vs. warm soils
  - steep slopes
  - planting for vine balance
  - the conundrum of clones and rootstocks
2. planting a vineyard for years 10 through 30, not years 4 through 9.
  - vine density
  - cane pruning
3. the courage to remove under performing vineyard blocks
4. yield mentality of pounds per foot of canopy rather than tons per acre
5. retaining skilled labor

### **Seasonal decisions:**

1. managing for appropriate wine style (blends), quality, and price points. (Whites vs. Reds)
2. crop load decisions and timing of crop reduction:
  - pruning
  - shoot thinning
  - post fruit set cluster thinning
  - fine tune cluster thinning (green harvest)
3. leaf pulling:
  - post flowering leaf removal on canopy cool side (east or north)
  - pre-cluster close
  - September fine tuning
4. spray program: focus on the critical period from June through early July
5. managing soil fertility, cover crops, and the vineyard floor
  - vine age
  - soil
  - seasonal rainfall variations
6. micro-block picking decisions
  - whites = acidity and flavor/aroma maturity
  - reds = tannins and visual indicators