

750ml Biographies

Brian Snelling, Proprietor

When Brian was a toddler in Walla Walla, Washington, it must have been a hint of things to come in the wine world and his personal vocation. The once sleepy town was best known for its sweet onions and in 30 years has become renowned for having some of the best Syrahs in the country. Paralleling the growing sophistication of the American palate, with the unveiling of 750ml, Snelling is sharing a friendly, open and inviting concept with the wine and spirits-loving public. 750ml is a place that offers a sleek yet comfortable backdrop for experimenting and learning about wine. Even veteran oenophiles will be surprised by the offerings at 750ml, little gems that have been sought out and the occasional older vintage wine that he and partner Kyle Thomas come across.

A degree in Political Science from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver followed by a move to California in 1988 provided Snelling with an international launching pad for discovering wine. He made frequent trips to wine country with friends and loved hearing the various individual stories from winemakers and owners. His career at the time with Thomas Cook and later as a consultant for American Express and the first automated wine tasting bar, VinoVenue, equipped him with the marketing skills that he puts to work in overseeing the logistics, business development and marketing for 750ml. He knows how to walk that fine line of offering to people what they want, while introducing them to new things that capture the imagination.

At 750ml, Snelling focuses on selecting some of his favorite quaffs over the years while peppering the collection with eclectic labels from California, Washington, Oregon, New York, Argentina, New Zealand, South Africa, and Australia. In addition, he seeks out and stocks high-end limited production spirits, many created in small distilleries in San Francisco.

Snelling spends his free time with his partner, also named Brian, either at their home in the Oakland Hills area of Montclair, or in the Anderson Valley, with their dog Tanner, where they enjoy seeking out the next cool, undiscovered Pinot Noir. Anderson Valley is “down home” to him, just like the wheat fields turned vineyards of the Walla Walla farm country.

Kyle Thomas, Proprietor

750ml represents the culmination of a dream for Kyle Thomas, whose love of wines is matched only by his zest for adventurous travel and great food. Born to a military family in Davis, CA, Thomas developed a taste for travel early on, and an epiphany with a killer bottle of California Pinot Noir, sampled while on vacation in Hawaii, sparked an untapped well of enthusiasm for wine the world over. He once even took a sabbatical from his job to work a harvest in Livermore, gaining experience with viticulture and wine making.

He and his wife of six years Monica, who met at a coffee shop in Alameda while taking Spanish lessons, have found in each other a perfect companion for the good life. The two enjoy sailing, fly fishing, convivial dinners with good friends, and tending their half-acre Syrah vineyard in their backyard in the Oakland Hills. Ever curious about grape growing, the Thomases have traveled throughout California, Washington and Oregon, and each year they take a trip to a different wine region in the world...so far their passports show stamps from Italy, Spain, Germany and France. Their next destination? Australia!

Kyle's focus at 750ml, in addition to helping with the design and build out, is to seeking out small production Cabernet Sauvignon producers, his greatest love. 750ml's focus is on 80% small producers and 20% more familiar brands, and Kyle loves sharing his stories about winemakers he met while personally scouting out the shop's wine selections. And on occasion, visitors can find his wife Monica behind the counter pouring or assisting with a wine choice at the Enomatic®...it's a family affair.

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