

VINITAS CONSULTANTS, LLC

ALAN BUSACCA, PH.D.

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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

2006-present	Manager/Owner, Vinitas Vineyard Consultants, LLC, Bingen, WA
2008-present	Co-Owner, Volcano Ridge Vineyard, The Dalles, OR
2010-present	Manager/Owner, Heart Catcher Wines, Hood River, OR
2013-April 2014	Director, Center for Enology & Viticulture, Walla Walla Community College
2006-2013	Co-Owner, AlmaTerra Wines, LLC, Grandview & Bingen, WA
2007-2008	Geologist on Contract, Colorado Geological Survey, Denver, CO
1982-2007	Professor of Soil Science & Adjunct Professor of Geology, Depts. of Crop & Soil Sciences and Geology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA
1977-1982	Masters & Doctoral Research Assoc., Dept. Land, Air, & Water Resources, Univ. Calif. Davis
1974-1977	Assistant Field Geologist, U.S. Geol. Survey, Menlo Park, CA; geol. mapping Yosemite Nat'l Park

EDUCATION:

Ph.D.	Soil Science	1982	University of California, Davis
M.S.	Soil Science	1979	University of California, Davis
B.S.	Earth Science w/Honors	1973	University of California, Santa Cruz

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE:

- As owner and manager of Vinitas Consultants, I evaluate land for clients nationally and internationally to advise them on soil and site characteristics, including:
 - Evaluating lands pre- or post-purchase to assess vineyard quality potential; prepare detailed vineyard soil surveys with proposed vineyard block layout; evaluate and monitor site climate; make specialized GPS surveys & GIS-based vineyard and AVA (American Viticultural Area) maps
 - Preparing petitions to the U.S. TTB on behalf of grape growers for new AVAs. Petitions approved: Wahluke Slope, Lake Chelan, Lewis-Clark Valley. In review: Royal Slope (Frenchman Hills, WA).
 - Mapping & evaluating hydric soils to delineate protected wetlands & assist land owners to mitigate wetland damage
- With my business partner in Volcano Ridge Vineyard, I make weekly, annual, and long-range decisions on farming, financial management and marketing of the fruit from our 160-acre property with its 25-acre vinifera vineyard in the Columbia Gorge AVA. I took the lead in 2012 to meet international certification standards for our vineyard in the sustainable viticulture LIVE and Salmon Safe programs: our vineyard has been certified since the 2013 harvest
- As owner of Heart Catcher Wines, I make small lots of premium Zinfandel and Merlot wines for commercial sale and to showcase my vineyard's fruit for winery clients
- As director of the 2-year degree program in Enology and Viticulture at Walla Walla C.C. I served also as General Manager of 3,000-case College Cellars, the program's bonded teaching winery
- With my business partner in AlmaTerra Wines, I shared strategic, financial, and winemaking decisions of our 1000-case boutique brand. I was solely responsible for branding and marketing of AlmaTerra & I designed, built, and managed our tasting room in Bingen, WA
- As a WSU research scientist and teacher for 25 years, I ran a research laboratory & an aggressive field research program on rates and processes of soil formation, agriculture, soil erosion control, and Northwest Ice-Age geologic history. At any one time I typically managed 2-4 research grants of up to several \$100,000s & up to 10 grad students & research techs

SELECTED CONSULTING PROJECTS:

2016-2017	Private Farming Client, Walla Walla Valley AVA: Viticultural land evaluation and parcel quality ratings for several thousand acres of potential vineyard/orchard land with abundant irrigation water
2016-2017	Kennewick Irrigation District, Benton City, WA: Site evaluation for vineyard development, parcels totaling 400 ac, Columbia Valley AVA American Viticultural Area (AVA))
2012, 2016-17	Acquest Dev. & Wm Huntress, Buffalo NY: Expert witness for defense of EPA/DOJ wetlands lawsuit

- 2016 Fowler Family Vineyards, Lyle WA: Soils/site evaluation for ~20-ac premium wine grape vineyard
- 2016 Martin Family Vineyards, Adrian OR: 50-acre soil/site evaluation for premium wine-grape vineyard (Snake River Valley AVA)
- 2015-2016 Royal Slope Winegrowers: Petition for American Viticultural Area (submitted 2-24-2017)
- 2015 Epperson Associates, LLC, Salt Lake City, UT: Hydric soils determination for wetland delineation, 2400 ac site for new Utah State prison
- 2015 Bavaro Farming, Inc., Waterford, CA: Land eval. for 245 ac orchard development
- 2014-2016 Thomas Lumpkin, Lyle WA: Soils/site eval. of 125-ac ranch for ~20-ac premium wine grape vineyard
- 2014-2016 Idaho Wine Commission: Research on soils and climate, Snake River Valley AVA, Nampa, ID
- 2014-2015 Three Monkeys, LLC, Bellevue WA: Soil and site quality evaluation for ultra premium vineyard development, 280 acres, Red Mountain AVA, Benton City, WA
- 2012, 2013 Ste. Michelle Wine Estates: Gave seminars for SMWE winemakers, viticulture field staff, & marketing staff on site-specific terroir factors and vineyard quality in WA State
- 2011-2013 Winegrowers of the Lewis-Clark Valley, ID-WA: Petition to US Dept of Treasury, TTB to establish the Lewis-Clark Valley AVA. Adopted May 20, 2016. Also wrote & submitted petitions for the Lake Chelan (2010) & Wahluke Slope (2006) AVAs
- 2009-2011 Kennewick Irrigation District, Benton City, WA: Site evaluation of parcels totaling 800 ac for vineyard development, Red Mountain AVA. Auction sale totaled over \$16 million
- 2007-2008 Premier Pacific Vineyards, Napa, CA: Pre-purch. eval., 3900 acre ranch, Horse Heaven Hills AVA, WA
- 2007-2008 Jon Staenberg, Seattle, WA: Eval. land & bus. plan for vinyd dev., Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina
- 2005-2006 Sevein Vineyard Partners: Walla Walla Valley AVA; site eval for 2000 ac vineyard development

AT WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY:

- Time in rank: Assistant Professor 1982-1987; Associate Professor 1988-1995; Full Prof. 1995-2007
- Major Advisor of 10 Master's Degree, 5 Ph.D., and 7 post-Masters and post-Doctoral fellows
- Main courses taught: Soils 360/Crops 360 - World Agricultural Systems; Soils 451 - Pedology; Soils 551 - Advanced Pedology; Hort 413/513 - Advanced Viticulture
- Senior author or co-author of 50 refereed journal articles, 6 book chapters, 1 book editorship, 7 serial pubs, 13 field trip guides, 8 symposium proceedings, 12 other publications, & 80 abstracts
- Total dollar value of research grants >\$2,500,000 as Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI

VIDEO:

- Wash. State: Get The Dirt on Wine. 2006. Movie on terroirs of WA State. Available from amazon.com. I consulted on script and am the host & guide of the film. As seen on NW Public TV

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (more than 100 total):

- Wilkins, David, Alan Busacca, and Clyde Northrup. 2016. Investigation of Terroir Factors, Sunnyslope District, Snake River Valley AVA. Proceedings of the 11th International Terroir Congress 2016, July 10-14, McMinnville, Oregon (USA).
- McDonald, Eric V., Mark R. Sweeney, Alan J. Busacca. 2012. Glacial outburst floods and loess sedimentation documented during Oxygen Isotope Stage 4 on the Columbia Plateau, Washington State. Quaternary Science Reviews 45 (2012):18-30.
- Busacca, Alan J. and Lawrence D. Meinert. 2003. Wine and Geology - The terroir of Washington State. pp. 69-85, In T.W. Swanson (ed), Western Cordillera and adjacent areas. Geological Soc. Am. Field Guide 4
- Meinert, L.D., and A.J. Busacca. 2002. Geology and Wine 6: Terroir of the Red Mountain Appellation, Central Washington State, U.S.A. Geoscience Canada 29:149-168.
- Meinert, L. D., and A. J. Busacca. 2000. Geology and wine 3: Terroirs of the Walla Walla Valley Appellation, southeastern Wash. State, USA. Geosci. Canada 27(4): 149-171.
- Busacca, Alan J. 1991. Loess deposits and soils of the Palouse and vicinity. pp. 216-228, In Baker, V. R., and others. The Columbia Plateau, Ch. 8, In Morrison, R. B. (ed.) Quaternary Non-Glacial Geology of the United States. Geological Society of America Geology of North America.
- McCool, D. K., and A. J. Busacca. 1999. Measuring and modeling soil erosion and erosion damages. pp. 23-56, In E. L. Michalson, R. I. Papendick, and J. E. Carlson (eds.), Conservation Farming in the United States. CRC Press, New York.
- Boling, M., B. Frazier, and Alan Busacca. 1998. General Soil Map, Washington. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Department of Crop and Soil Sci, WSU, Pullman. 1:750,000.