



## **Purchase and Sale Details**

On December 30th, 2020, Basel Cellars Estate was purchased by a group of investors led by Walla Walla residents and business owners Dan Thiessen, Paul MacKay, and Philip Christofides. The trio founded the Walla Walla Steak Company and Crossbuck Brewing. Chad Mackay, and Scott Clark, seasoned hospitality and business professionals round out the leadership team. The group is purchasing the estate from previous owners Steve and Jo Marie Hansen. The purchase includes the Basel Cellars brand as well as all real property, equipment, and inventory.

The new ownership group will continue to operate Basel Cellars Estate as an exceptional wine country lodging and event location while developing plans for further winery and hospitality expansion on the property.

## **Property Overview**

Basel Cellars is perched atop a prominent hill in Walla Walla's "Southside" winery district and is surrounded by its estate vineyards and features sweeping views of the Blue Mountains. Originally built in 1997 as a private residence, the Estate House at Basel Cellars was the finest home in the Walla Walla valley. The property was acquired in 2002 and converted into an estate winery, vineyard, luxury vacation rental, and event venue.

The 83-acre estate includes 27 acres of mature vineyard, a full winery production facility and cellar, on-site tasting room, an eight-bedroom vacation rental, a two-bedroom cabana, and incomparable grounds for hosting weddings and private events.

**Sellers:** Owners Steve and Jo Marie Hansen of Vancouver became partners at Basel Cellars in 2004 and have been the sole owners since 2011.

"It has been a pleasure these past 17 years to be a part of the wine and hospitality community in Walla Walla. We are pleased to have found the right local people with the right vision and skill to make things here even bigger and better in the future. We are so appreciative of our coworkers at Basel who by their welcoming hospitality have given great wine experiences to so many over the years. We are also grateful to our wine club members, many of whom have become friends. Thank you to all and we look forward to a great future for the winery." Jo Marie and Steve Hansen

**Buyers:**

The new leadership team has decades of experience in development, food and beverage concepts and operations, hotel, and resort operations, design, and construction, as well as farming and ranching.

- Dan Thiessen, Managing partner of Walla Walla Steak Company and Crossbuck Brewing.
- Chad Mackay, CEO, Fire & Vine Hospitality
- Scott Clark: Principal, Clark Property Development
- Philip Christofides, Partner and architect for Walla Walla Steak Company and Crossbuck Brewing.
- Paul Mackay, Partner for Walla Walla Steak Co. and Crossbuck Brewing and founder of El Gaucho Hospitality.

“We want to thank Steve and Jo Marie Hansen for their contribution to our community as an exemplary employer and in the meticulous maintenance of an iconic and treasured estate,” said Dan Thiessen, managing partner. “The Basel Cellars Estate is an exceptional destination location for weddings, events and family getaways and our team looks forward to continuing that tradition and expanding on the possibilities with an enhanced culinary program and events around the property.”

**Transactional Advisors:** The Northwest based Mergers & Acquisitions Advisory firm METIS served as the exclusive transactional advisor.

**Winemaking and Tasting Room Details:** The new ownership team will continue to operate the Basel Cellars tasting room and distribution relationships, while also pursuing new wine brand partnership opportunities.

**Employees:** Basel Cellars currently employs five full-time employees, plus additional part-time and seasonal harvest employees. The new ownership team is planning to keep as many existing staff as possible in the transition.

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