LONG SHADOWS

DISTINGUISHED WINERIES & VINEYARDS

GILLES NICAULT

Gilles Nicault left the University of Avignon with a four year degree in Viticulture and Enology. He honed his craft in the fabled hillside vineyards and wineries of Cote Du Rhone, Provence and Champagne. Then, already a vintner of rising fame, Gilles traveled to America. He wanted to see for himself if reports of outstanding noble grapes from the eastern slopes of Washington state were indeed true.

His tour took him to the Staton Hills Winery of Yakima Valley in 1994, to Woodward Canyon in 1996, and included a stint at the Hogue Winery. He soon became part of the prestigious community of Washington enologists and winemakers.

Gilles discovered that he and Rick Small, owner of Woodward Canyon, shared the same philosophy and passion in producing world class wines, and in 1999 he was appointed as the head of Enology and Production of Woodward Canyon.

But it was in the vineyards of southern France where Gilles developed his deep convictions regarding the science of grape growing, and the profound role it plays in winemaking.

“Wines are made in the vineyard and only an excellent relationship between grower and winemaker allows the crafting of outstanding wines that reflect their terroir,” he explains.

Gilles has a passion for knowledge, and has shaped his career path to achieve maximum growth through exposure to new ideas. "Rick (Small) brought so much originality and creativity to wine making - and he was so open and generous with his knowledge – I will always pay homage to him. His willingness to support my decision to join Long Shadows is evident of the generous and gracious style of this man. "

It was only natural that Gilles would want to join Allen Shoup’s state-of-the-art Long Shadows team. It is here where he will complete his search for the secrets of the world's most exceptional wines as he works alongside some of the world’s greatest winemakers. His exposure to their craftsmanship, with specific grape varieties and classic wine styles, allows him to perfect his own signature work with the Chester-Kidder winery.

Gilles is married to Winemaker Marie-Eve Gilla of Forgeron Cellars, a highly accredited winemaker in her own right.