

The Geology of Northwest Oregon and Wines from the Dundee Hills of the Willamette Valley

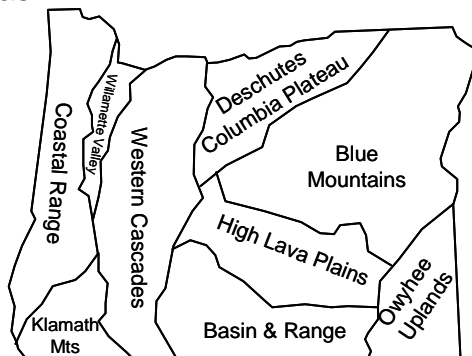
By: Kevin B. Hill

accompanied by Arron and Ashley Bell of Domaine Drouhin Oregon

**Friday February 19, 6.30 P.M.
16th Floor of the Petroleum Club
\$75 per person.**

The price includes reception, talk, tasting wines, 4-course meal with N.W. Oregon foods and cheese to accompany more wines.

The geology of Oregon is mostly volcanic. The landscape has been shaped by plate tectonics and volcanics for millions of years. The state has many very interesting geologic areas.



Within a small sliver between the Western Cascades and the Coast Range lies the Willamette Valley. This valley has tremendously fertile soil that is the heart of the Oregon agricultural area. The agricultural richness of the valley is in part a result of the Missoula Floods, which inundated the valley approximately forty times between 15,000 and 13,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age. The floods were caused by the periodic rupturing of the ice dam of Glacial Lake Missoula, the waters of which swept down the Columbia River and flooded the Willamette Valley as far south as Eugene. The floodwaters carried rich volcanic and glacial soil from Eastern Washington, which was deposited across the valley floor when the waters subsided. The soil in the Willamette Valley is about 0.5 miles (1 km) deep in some areas.

In recent decades, the valley has also become a major wine producer, with multiple American Viticultural Areas of its own. With a cooler climate than California, the gently rolling hills surrounding the Willamette are home to some of the best (and most-expensive) pinot noir in the world.

The first seeds for what would become Domaine Drouhin Oregon were sown in 1961. Robert Drouhin, head of Burgundy's legendary Maison Joseph Drouhin, was visiting America's west coast promoting the Drouhin Burgundies. The

California wine industry was just starting to receive its first recognition back then, but there was little if anything going on in Oregon. Robert's first visit to the Northwest and its earliest vineyards left him with the impression that it quite possibly would be Oregon, not California, that would ultimately prove to be the best place to grow the great grape of Burgundy - Pinot noir.

In 1979 a tasting was held in Paris, where, for the first time, the best new Oregon Pinot noirs were tasted in competition with the finest Burgundies. A wine from Oregon's Eyrie Vineyards stunned the wine world by winning first place. If you saw the movie "Bottle Shock" you got part of the story.

For oil and gas explorers:

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recently completed an assessment of the undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources of the Western Oregon and Washington Province, which includes all of Oregon and Washington north of the Klamath Mountains and west of the crest of the Cascade Range.

Interestingly enough the USGS has assessed both conventional oil and gas and continuous (unconventional) coalbed gas in the Western Oregon and Washington Province, resulting in estimated total means of 2.2 trillion cubic feet of gas (TCFG) and 15 million barrels of oil (MMBO). These are (1) the Cretaceous-Tertiary TPS and the Western Oregon and Washington Conventional Gas AU; (2) the Tertiary Marine TPS and the Tertiary-Marine Gas AU; and (3) the Tertiary Coalbed Gas TPS and the Eocene Coalbed Gas AU. The province extends offshore to the 3-mile limit of State waters on the west and to the International Boundary in the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Canada on the north, encompassing more than 51,000 mi².

Currently, the only hydrocarbon production within the province is from the Mist Gas Field in northwestern Oregon that was discovered in May 1979 and has produced about 65 billion cubic feet of gas (BCFG) from upper Eocene Cowlitz Formation reservoirs through 2008.

THE EVENING WILL BE OPEN TO THE 1ST 120 PEOPLE TO CALL OR EMAIL TO RESERVE THEIR PLACE. SGS members may bring their spouse or significant other and a guest couple. We already have 50 reservations! Don't miss out on this fun Friday evening together. **Reservation deadline closes on Monday, February 15 at 5 pm.**

Kevin B. Hill



Kevin Hill has a BS Professional degree from LSU. He has over 33 years of international oil and gas exploration. He specializes in 3D seismic imaging of the earth. Kevin was instrumental in the development of the Kingdom seismic workstation software packages.

At the age of 18 Kevin drank his first (real) glass of wine in Beaune France. It was a red 1969 Burgundy called Gevrey-Chambertin. The next day he walked along the vineyards noticing the neat rocks with fossils and cliffs in the distance. Four years later he got his degree in Geology and started work in the Cities Service. From there he went to Forest Oil, Sonat and then began Hill Geophysical Consulting in 1988.

Kevin tries to explore the geology of any location that he happens to be in. He has made over two dozen trips to Europe to study the Cretaceous. He has also been to California, Washington and Oregon where he observed the complex folding and faulting of the convergent plates.

In July of 2009 Kevin and Mary Virginia Hill went to the International Pinot Noir Celebration in McMinnville, Oregon. They met many winemakers at the conference. Geology was a hot topic of the event, and Kevin was digging in the dirt at different vineyards to find out why the wines had such unique character.

Arron and Ashley Bell of Domaine Drouhin Oregon



Arron Bell is the Assistant Winemaker and Operations Manager; in charge of all winemaking operations and bottling, and facility and site management operations. Arron joined us in July of 2002, working as a caviste in the cellar. Over the last few years, he has been promoted through the ranks as Tasting Room Manager, Hospitality Director, Cellarmaster and in 2009 to his current position. We are very pleased to have him working under the direction of winemaker Veronique Drouhin-Boss.

Ashley Bell is our Hospitality Director, welcoming you to our winery and estate atop the Dundee Hills with a smile, a world of information and wine knowledge. Ashley joined Domaine Drouhin in May of 2004 as Tasting Room Director to assist in opening our new Tasting Room and aide in the creation and development of DDO Direct, our wine club. She was promoted to Hospitality Director in June of 2005 and oversees all Direct Sales.

Arron and Ashley are married and are making a special trip to Shreveport to assist in this important discussion of Geology and Wine.