



Chateau Chantal Timeline

- 1978** March 10th Marie-Chantal Begin is born
- 1983** Bob & Nadine Begin buy the 65-acre farm which will be Chateau Chantal under the name of Begin Orchards
- 1984** Bob removes 10-acres of cherry trees
- 1985** First 10 acres are planted with Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Grigio, and Gewürztraminer.
- 1986** Trellis and irrigation is added to vineyard in the spring
- 1989** 14 more acres cleared, land is shaped, and roads are roughed-in
- 1990** More vines planted: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Riesling.
- 1990** First wine produced under the Chateau Chantal label.
- 1990** July 10th “Winery-Chateau Ordinance” approved and a “Special Use Permit” is issued to Begin Orchards from Peninsula Township
- 1991** Chateau Operations, Ltd is incorporated doing business as Chateau Chantal with 200,000 shares to Robert Begin as sole incorporator.
- 1991** *Promissory Notes* are issued to 13 people, convertible to equity after the fourth year, acquiring \$227,500 in working capital for Chateau Operations, Ltd.
- 1992** Construction of the original Chateau begins
- 1993** July 1st Chateau Chantal opens its doors for business and sells its first bottle of wine
- 1995** Chateau Chantal clears the final 12 acres of cherry trees and begins preparing the land for grapes
- 1997** 11 of the Original Investors covert their *Promissory Notes* into stock—*The Founders Group* is formed
- 1997** Chateau Chantal wins “Best of Show” at the Michigan State Fair for our Ice Wine
- 1997** Chateau Chantal’s Grand Traverse Mall store opens for business
- 1998** Last private party event is held at Chateau Chantal
- 1998** East side of Estate is planted with grape vines
- 1999** Chateau Chantal wins “Best of Show” at the Michigan State Fair for our 1998 Proprietor’s Reserve Chardonnay
- 2000** Chateau Chantal coverts from a Sub-S into a C-Corporation, initial Stock offering (minimum not reached)
- 2001** Three healthy baby boys are born to Chateau Chantal staff members
- 2002** Construction begins on the B&B expansion
- 2002** Computer software is purchased for the Tasting Room to track sales and inventory
- 2003** New stock offering
- 2003** B&B Inn expansion is completed, raising the total units from three to eleven
- 2003** 10th Anniversary of the opening of Chateau Chantal



- 2004** Public stock offering successfully closed, monies raised allocated to assets such as new bottling line
- 2004** Trio and Celebrate win Gold Medal at the 2004 International Taster Guild. Cerise, our new fortified cherry wine takes Gold Medal at the 2004 Great Lakes Wine Competition
- 2004** Release of our first distilled product, cherry Eau De Vie
- 2004** Purchase of re-conditioned self-propelled mechanical harvester, the first of its kind in Northern Michigan
- 2004** Addition of 85-acre property off Montague Road on Old Mission Peninsula to Chateau Chantal containing 14 acres of planted vinifera vines and 20 acres of producing cherry trees
- 2004** Bob Begin and his team of investors sign papers to purchase 136 acres in the Lujan de Cuyo region, a “county” in the province of Mendoza. The farm has 43 acres of mature Malbec and seven acres of Bonarda
- 2005** New cooling unit in cellar is installed to help control the fermentation process and for cold stabilization of the wine
- 2005** Six new tanks are installed in the cellar to increase the capacity of our Chateau Chantal’s cellar
- 2005** Wines fare well against the U.S and the world...2004 Late Harvest Riesling, 2002 Trio, 2004 Proprietor’s Reserve Riesling, 2002 Proprietor’s Reserve Chardonnay, 2002 Methode Champenoise, Naughty Red, Nice Red, Sparkling Cherry, 2004 Proprietor’s Reserve Pinot Gris, 2004 Pinot Noir, 2004 Semi Dry Riesling, Cerise medal in Eastern International, International Taster’s Guild, Indiana International, L.A. County Fair, Michigan State Fair, OCC Great Lakes Great Wine, ... taking double golds, golds, silvers, and bronzes.
- 2006** Investors receive first return from the stock offering in 2003.
- 2006** Malbec wine arrives from Chateau Chantal South, SA LLC located in Mendoza, Argentina.
- 2006** Chateau Chantal wines medal in over thirty competitions nationally and internationally. Over twenty of these medals received a silver or higher.
- 2006** Sale of 85-acre property off Montague Road on Old Mission Peninsula. The 14 acres of planted vinifera vines and 20 acres of producing cherry trees are still under contract for wine production
- 2007** Bob Begin retires from position as president and CEO to serve as founding chairman of the Board of Directors. Jim Krupka moves from managing director to CEO.
- 2008** Chateau Chantal celebrates our 15th Anniversary
- 2009** Founders Bob & Nadine Begin welcome home their daughter and winery namesake, Marie-Chantal, and her husband Paul to commence employment as Director of Marketing and Vineyard Manager, respectively.