

Winery Profile

Chateau Chantal owns and/or operates vineyards, wine production facilities, a tasting room from which retail wine sales are made, and an 11-unit bed and breakfast inn on the Old Mission Peninsula north of Traverse City, Michigan. The Company occupies a three-story building that is located on a 60-acre ridge overlooking both east and west Grand Traverse Bays.

While the Chateau Chantal was not incorporated until 1991, its history began in December 1983, when Robert and Nadine Begin formed Begin Orchards and purchased 60 acres of cherry orchards on the Company's current site. Between 1984 and 1991, the Begins cleared much of this land, planted various grapes varieties and purchased additional land. In July 1990, Mr. Begin received a Special Use Permit from the Peninsula Township to operate the Chateau. In June 1991, the Company was incorporated and in 1993 construction of the Chateau was completed. July of 2003 saw the completion of the expansion which added eight B&B units to the original three, and a 2,000 sq. ft. Hospitality Room equipped for executive retreats and events.

Chateau Chantal's Great Room is open to the public for tasting and sales all year-round. We offer a wide variety of wines – from very dry to lightly sweet. Each of our hand-crafted wines are produced under our winemaker's meticulous supervision from vineyard to bottle. Vineyard development began in 1983 when sweet and tart cherry orchards were replaced with grafted grape vines of the vinifera species – the same type grown along other parts of the 45th parallel in the Bordeaux region of France. Acreage is planted with Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Noir, Gewurztraminer, Merlot and Pinot Meunier. Our wines have won several awards, including the 1998 Proprietor's Reserve Chardonnay, which won "Best of Show White" at the 1999 Michigan State Fair; and, more recently, three gold medals and two silver at the 2004 International Taster's Guild Competition.

Chateau Chantal is located twelve miles north of Traverse City on a ridge overlooking both the east and the west arms of Grand Traverse Bay. The Chateau has been designed to blend into the scenic environment and to offer high-quality lodging in keeping with the area's growing reputation for exceptional hospitality. Nearly every part of the property offers stunning views of Grand Traverse Bay, which is divided by the narrow, 20-mile long, Old Mission Peninsula. Chateau Chantal believes that few sites in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains are able to grow the vinifera species of wine grape that the company grows. Chateau Chantal is such a site because of the influence of surrounding waters, convective air currents, good air drainage and protective snow depths during the winter. Because its geography and microclimate are sufficiently unique, the ATF has designated Old Mission Peninsula as an American Viticulture Area.

Our bed & breakfast accommodations offer an ambiance unlike any other in the Midwest. Our suites and select rooms each include a private bath, whirlpool tubs, modern amenities, the coziness of a secluded retreat, breathtaking views, a full gourmet breakfast, and access to the Chateau's Great Room, a full conference room, 2 fireplaces and wine tasting bar.