

At Lauterbach, a mom-and-pop winery operates from a garage

By Stacy Briscoe | Posted on 12/13/2016



Photo: Preston Gannaway / Special to The Chronicle

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You might be wondering if you took a wrong turn somewhere when you pull up to Lauterach. The modest winery is a literal mom-and-pop operation stemming out of a two-car garage. That's Stew and Barb Lauterbach working away in their modest winery. They are owners and operators, grape growers and winemakers, tasting room attendants and bottleshop sellers. This is a literal mom and pop operation.

The hilltop house (no, this isn't actually their home) looks over fields of vines. "All along here is the Pinot Noir," Stew Lauterbach will say, pointing. "And down the hill — that's our Syrah." You will be drinking the fruits of your immediate 15-acre surroundings.

What you can expect from your time with Stew and Barb is pretty much anything you want. If you simply want to taste a selection of current releases, they'll have them all lined up on a folding table ready and waiting. But this is your chance to learn the nitty gritty of wine making from a couple who made a passion project successful. Stew still works as a medical professional and Barb is a recently retired attorney; they've learned everything through community courses and experience.



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