



Ray Rossi Chair in Viticulture and Enology

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Viticulture and Enology

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ENDOWMENT PURPOSE

The Ray Rossi Endowed Chair in Viticulture and Enology, along with the Louise Rossi Endowed Chair in Viticulture and Enology, were created through an estate gift from the late Louise Rossi upon her passing in 2007. Louise Rossi and her brother, Ray, were ardent supports of the Department of Viticulture and Enology at UC Davis during their lifetimes. To honor both Louise and Ray Rossi, the Department of Viticulture and Enology, in consultation with Rossi's estate executors, agreed that two endowed chairs should be established to support and attract faculty leaders in viticulture and enology at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis.

RESEARCH

I do sensory evaluation of wine. This fund has allowed me to pay for a post-doctoral scholar and that has allowed me to work with colleagues across the department on sensory wine related projects that did not have any external funding. For example, the red botch virus study with Anita Oberholster and the Pinot noir regionality project with Ron Runnebaum. It also allowed me to send some graduate students to national and international meetings

TEACHING

I teach Sensory evaluation of Wine, Sensometrics and Wines of the World. Having access to the Rossi fund has allowed me to buy wines for in class tastings that I would previously not have had access to or that I would have purchased out of my own pocket

STUDENTS

Yes, the money has also been used to support other sensory projects in my lab in terms of supplies.

OUTREACH

I have been writing a book that would be useful for the alcoholic beverages industry and that has curtailed outreach activities for the moment.

THANKS

The Ray Rossi endowment has changed my life! I am not waking at 2 am worrying about funding student projects or research from my colleagues. I can sleep and do my job!