Rick Davis Bio

Rick Davis is a long time wine enthusiast and aficionado who has been engaged in one form of wine education or another for 35 years. These days he evaluates and reviews wines for wineries and individual winemakers, he writes a monthly wine newsletter, *Rick’s Grape Skinny*, aimed mostly at novices and eager learners, he Chairs the North Wake Chapter of the American Wine Society (which he founded in 2012), he spearheads annual “wine-centric” charitable endeavors -- the *Colby Red Foundation* and *Wine to Water* being his most recent fundraisers -- and he consults with producers in Italy, Australia...and India of all places! And for the record, Rick’s wine-related activities are all for fun, for the love of all things wine and all for free!

Rick began his wine endeavors in 1979 shortly after an Army assignment took him and his family to Germany. Within a week of his arrival, his boss "asked" him to prepare and teach a class for his fellow officers and their spouses on how to read and understand German wine labels. With only Communion wine for experience...literally Welch’s grape juice...and knowing little to nothing about wine at that juncture in his life, he was obliged to quickly immerse himself in the task at hand. True to form, Rick plunged head-first into that great big vat of *Qualitätswein mit Prädikat, Trockenbeerenauslese* Riesling...and he’s been stomping around in juice ever since. Thus began Rick’s wine odyssey and his ongoing interest in helping others to learn more about and to better appreciate wines of all kinds and styles.

Professionally, Rick served in the Army for 30 years -- retiring in 1993 as the Base Commander of Vint Hill Farms Station...the Army’s Center of Excellence for the Research and Development of Intelligence and Electronic Warfare technologies. During his tenure there, he served on a Regional Economic Development Council for then Governor George Allen’s Opportunity Virginia Program with a focus on expanding Virginia’s burgeoning wine industry. He also served for 15 years as the National Director of Emergency Communications for the American Red Cross in Washington, DC. There, Rick was focused on providing timely, around-the-clock and around-the-globe emergency assistance to both members of the Armed Forces and their families and to victims of natural and man-made disasters wherever they might occur. Retiring for the second time in 2007, Rick and his wife, Lynette, moved to Wake Forest, NC to be near their two children and two grandchildren. He now plays a lot of golf and "sips and tastes" a lot of wine! As Rick is prone to say...Life is Good...BUT RETIRED LIFE IS GOODER!

And lest there be doubt...Rick knows all too well that shopping for wine and ordering wine in a fine restaurant come right behind shopping for a car and going to the dentist as Americans’ most intimidating and/or least favorite things to do. That’s why Rick is always happy to do what he can -- and all that he can -- to make buying wine a more comfortable and enjoyable endeavor.