

# YOUR life

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Connecting with the community



Photos courtesy of Olympic Cellars

Olympic Cellars Winery of Port Angeles is located in the picturesque "Chambers" barn. Built in 1890 as a dairy barn, it's the oldest barn in Clallam County.

## Women & Wine



Whimsical wine labels from a variety of Olympic Cellars wines.

■ *Three women at the helm of a Port Angeles winery are having a positive impact on the community that goes beyond running a successful business.*

By Jane Freeman  
For The Sun

**K**athy Charlton believes in connections. Her vitality and enthusiasm just could be contagious. "We all need to slow down, take time out and enjoy it with family and friends..." says Charlton. "That's what life is all about."

Charlton and her husband, Ralph, bought Olympic Cellars Winery in Port Angeles in 1999. She took an early retirement in 2001 from her job with Texas Instruments in Dallas, Texas.

"Semi conductors to grapes ..." she laughs, "a natural career path I'm sure!" Charlton set out to make Olympic Cellars not just a winery, but a destination — and a part of the community. The former Neuharth Winery was started in 1979 as one of the first wineries in the state. It is located in the picturesque "Chambers" barn. Built in 1890 as a dairy barn, it's the oldest barn in Clallam County.

Charlton met Molly Rivard in a chocolate cooking class where Rivard was teaching the family chocolate sauce recipe. Soon afterward, Charlton hired Rivard as the tasting room manager. Sara Gagnon, the apprentice winemaker, was promoted to winemaker. Soon the three women were dubbed the "Olympic Women In Wine."

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The "Olympic Women In Wine" are, from left, Sara Gagnon, winemaker; Molly Rivard, tasting room manager, and Kathy Charlton, owner/manager.



OLYMPIC CELLARS WINERY  
*La Dolce Vida*  
2002 CABERNET FRANC

The La Dolce Vida labels feature artwork from Kathy Womack's "Women & Wine" series.

For information about Olympic Cellars Winery, 255410 Highway 101, Port Angeles, call (360) 452-0160 or visit [www.olympiccellars.com](http://www.olympiccellars.com).



Photo courtesy Olympic Cellars Winery

**Olympic Cellars Winery in Port Angeles is located in a historic barn.**

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— Kathy Charlton

## WINE

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Early on, Charlton found that organizations are always seeking donations of wines for various causes.

"We can't impact any one organization with one bottle of wine," she laments, "If I focused on one organization, I could make a difference there."

After doing the Susan G. Komen breast cancer walk, she decided the Gynocare Program at Family Planning of Clallam County would be the winery's charity of choice. The program provides financial assistance for medically underserved

women in Clallam County.

"There's a network of really talented and passionate women I've met here on the peninsula," Charlton adds. "We interconnect; women helping women."

Over Labor Day weekend, Olympic Cellars celebrated the first anniversary of its Working Girl™ Wine series with a percentage of proceeds from the sale of the wine and related products going directly to the Gynocare Program. The wine series includes Working Girl White, Go Girl Red and, most recently, Rosé the Riveter. The series was created to be distinct, yet affordable.

Olympic Cellars celebrated the release of Rosé the Riveter in July with a "We Can Do It!



Photo by Jane Freeman

Too" contest to support the G.I.R.L.S. (Gifted Individuals Realizing Leadership Skills) Summer Camp. The camp, sponsored by Peninsula College and Peninsula College Foundation, was a four-day non-traditional career exploration camp.

Another new release is the La Dolce Vida series. The colorful labels feature artwork from artist Kathy Womack's Women & Wine series. Olympic Cellars also produces a Dungeness wine

series. They've won numerous medals in the San Francisco, West Coast and Central Washington State wine competitions.

"It's truly a labor of love," Charlton says. "When we sell a bottle of Working Girl,™ we know we are helping someone down the road."

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