



## DIANA MERRIAM

Raised in a New England home where food was not only the focus of the kitchen, but also the means of the family's livelihood, Diana Merriam was transformed when she was introduced to the intricacies of food and wine during her honeymoon in France. Diana's natural spirit of warmth and hospitality found new inspiration in French Chateaux and gastronomic centers like Lyon and Dijon. Diana Merriam is now the creative force behind the new Merriam Vineyards Tasting Room. It is her hope that guests will leave Merriam Vineyards with feelings of generosity and abundance, reminiscent of her visits to the heart of France.

Diana is a dedicated mother of four and an inspiration to many; her focus on home and hearth is balanced by her community outreach. She serves on two local school boards in New England, advocates local sustainable agriculture, and welcomes family and friends throughout the year in the spirit of hospitality that comes to her so naturally.

Diana met Peter Merriam at New England College. As the third generation working in her family business of grocery stores in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, Diana was pursuing a degree in communications and advertising. Having been close friends throughout college, upon graduating, Diana and Peter married and began a life together in which they would grow as individuals and as a couple. Diana is a natural cook, and her kitchen is where her family thrives. Her favorite auction items are dinners, which she shares with her friends, finding further inspiration through diverse culinary experiences. Diana is faithful to her local farm stands, shopping nine months of the year at one of six stands within a fifteen-mile radius of her home. She also cultivates a garden every summer at their home in Maine, where she harvests tomatoes, cucumbers, beets, carrots, Swiss chard, zucchini, and herbs, turning them into seasonal delicacies to share.

At the winery, Diana cultivates flower and herb gardens, contributing to the sense of comfort and warmth that she has so artfully created in the tasting room.

Always a mother first, Diana is excited about providing her own children with a family legacy. "We hope that our children are as passionate about these vineyards and the winery as we are," Diana says. "It is our hope that they will want to continue this tradition." For now, Diana's daughter loves to help her in the kitchen, and the boys are enthusiastic about entertaining with their parents. For Peter and Diana, the participation of their children is a measure of success. "If we can create something they're excited about, and want to take on, then we have succeeded, by passing this legacy from one generation to the next."