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In March 2008, I took a friend up on an offer to visit Maury, France. She and her husband had recently purchased vineyards in the area and thought I might be interested in the town and its wines. We flew from San Francisco to Barcelona and made the 2-hour drive up to Maury that night. When we arrived it was dark… And I had no idea what the morning would bring.

When I awoke, what I saw was insane. **I looked out my bedroom window and saw one of the steepest, oldest vineyards I'd ever laid eyes on.** I was caught — hook, link, sinker. It was a challenge to be patient and get through breakfast. If this is what I could see from my window, what else was out there?

The answer was perhaps the most amazing confluence of vineyards I've ever been exposed to. I spent the next two days driving around with my jaw agape, stunned by the **raw beauty** of this place. **I called my wife and told her not to tell anyone where I was or what I was doing. She told me not to do anything stupid.** I left my first visit committed to purchasing just under 40-acres of old vine Grenache, and the only stupid thing I did was not buy more. Since then, I've returned at least once a month during the regular season, and every 7-10 days during harvest.

In the Spring of 2009, we began construction on a winery. Now, we have more than 300-acres of vineyards, a home, and an amazing group of friends. My wife and kids love it almost as much as I do. Someone once commented on how nice it was to have a second home in France. I said, **it's not my second home, it's my other home**. We found a place and a group of people that are unmatched. I'm so lucky to have been introduced to this amazing area and so proud to share its wines with you.

Dave Phinney
Winemaker and owner of Department 66