

Karnail Singh Sidhu – Viticulturist, Winemaker and Winery Owner

Karnail runs the family-owned Kalala Organic Estate Winery with his wife Narinder in the beautiful Okanagan Valley. He's developed an impressive approach to grape growing based on sharing knowledge and caring for the environment, and was recently awarded the inaugural BC Viticulturist of the Year award from the B.C. Grapegrowers' Association.

Born in a farming family, he got trained as an electrical engineer in India. When he moved to Canada in 1993 he found out that foreign credentials weren't recognized. So, he started looking for jobs in the agricultural sector.

After working in the vineyard he became soon the vineyard manager and worked at Summerhill Winery for over 10 years; at the same time he went on to Okanagan College to study viticulture.

After starting Kalala in 2006 where he produces now between 5,000 and 6,000 cases of wine a year he extended to farm about 70 organic acres.

Karnail believes that the land is a gift for future generations, so we must keep it good and safe. To him, organic doesn't mean, "just use organic products, and if you do, it won't impact the environment". Instead it is about a balance – you have to stay as close as possible to nature and focus more on prevention than cure.