Caldwell, Idaho —

The Symms family started their wine business in Emmet, Idaho, in 1975, and three years later moved it to the Sunny Slope region.

Originally intended to be a small family operation, their winery grew to meet customer demand as Idaho’s wine-growing region gained a reputation for fine wine.

In 2012, Ste. Chapelle became part of Precept Wine’s Northwest family of wineries.

Kelli Meyer is regional manager who oversees leadership teams at Ste. Chapelle and at Sawtooth, the sister winery.

“I was born and raised in Idaho and have been with this company 12 years. I started working with Sawtooth in 2011 and overseeing Ste. Chapelle in 2021,” she said.

“In 2016 our long-time winemaker, Maureen Johnson, accepted a position in Washington, and Meredith Smith became winemaker for Ste. Chapelle and Sawtooth, the two largest wineries in Idaho,” Meyer said.

Smith also helped build and introduce a new barrel and reserve program at Ste. Chapelle.

“We also did a big remodel of the inside of the tasting room in 2015. We built a new deck in 2018 and recently remodeled bathrooms and bridal suite in our vineyard park where we hold weddings and private events,” she said.

“We built our sister winery, Sawtooth — a quarter-mile down the hill on the property — in 2018,” she said.

Another thing that continues to grow is Ste. Chapelle’s community events. “This year we hosted an Easter egg hunt and raised money for the LLS organization (Leukemia and Lymphoma Society). We also did a blind tasting event to raise money for LLS, and will continue with these programs next year — and reach out to more local nonprofit groups to partner with them, as well,” she said.

The tasting room is also thriving. “We have all those new tasting room exclusive wines and are also one of the only wineries open 7 days a week year-round, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. which makes it very convenient for people,” she said.