

Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery
Donald L. Carano Bio

Name: Donald L. Carano
Place of Birth: Reno, Nevada
Occupation: Business Management Executive
Attorney
Nevada Hotel-Casino Industry
California Wine and Hospitality Industry

A native of Reno, Nevada, Don completed an undergraduate degree at the University of San Francisco, followed by a two-year stint as an officer in the United States Army. Returning to USF, Don attended law school, graduated with honors and began his law practice in Reno. His legal career in Nevada made him an expert in both corporate business and gaming law, and he used his knowledge in those arenas to build his own hotel/casino in 1973, called the Eldorado Hotel and Casino. Today, the Eldorado comprises 817 rooms, nine restaurants, a microbrewery, 70,000 square feet of casino space, a 600-seat showroom, specialty retail shops and a complete convention center. In 1992, Don entered a joint venture with Circus Circus Enterprises, now Mandalay Resorts/MGM, to create the Silver Legacy, northern Nevada's first mega-themed resort.

In addition to parallel careers as attorney, hotelier and restaurateur, Don became a winery owner in 1981 when he and his wife Rhonda founded Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery in Sonoma County's Dry Creek Valley. His commitment to fine wine, long-term vision and search for excellence in winemaking has been the driving force behind the success of the Ferrari-Carano brand. Don has consistently been determined to acquire only premium vineyards for estate-grown grapes, the foundation of Ferrari-Carano's wine program. He has partnered vineyard acquisition with a tireless exploration of winemaking techniques, equipment and cooperation to elicit the best expression of grapes from Ferrari-Carano estate vineyards; a combination of missions that has assured the continuing critical acclaim accorded to Ferrari-Carano wines since its first vintage in 1985.

Today, the Ferrari-Carano Winery owns 19 vineyards scattered throughout Sonoma and Napa Counties, comprising over 1,400 acres of vineyards, and thus controlling the high quality

of Ferrari-Carano wines. In 1999, Don and Rhonda bought two additional Sonoma County properties, Vintners Inn, a small, four-diamond hotel in the Russian River Valley area, and John Ash & Co., Sonoma County's most acclaimed restaurant.

Community and Professional Involvement:

- 2004 WIBC Gladys M. Banker Friendship Award
- 2000 Millennium 2000 Lifetime Achievement Award, International Restaurant and Hospitality Rating Bureau.
- 1999 University of San Francisco Law School's Alumnus of the Year.
- 1997 Honored as "Knight in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" by the Consul General of Italy in San Francisco on behalf of the President of Italy. This is the highest civil decoration bestowed by Italy to an Italian living outside the country. Don received this award for his extraordinary efforts in promotion Italian culture in Nevada and northern California.
- 1996 Inductee, International Gaming and Wagering Business (IGWB) Gaming Hall of Fame.
- 1994 Nevada Food and Beverage Directors Association, Man-of-the-Year, Autrui Award for accomplishments in hotel/restaurant industry and the State of Nevada for far-reaching philanthropy.