

Business Magazine

Greenville®



INTERNATIONAL

IMPACT

On our business landscape

Foreign Trade
Is it a fit for your
company?

Meet the Ramas
Setting the standard for
family business

BY KATRINA DANIEL

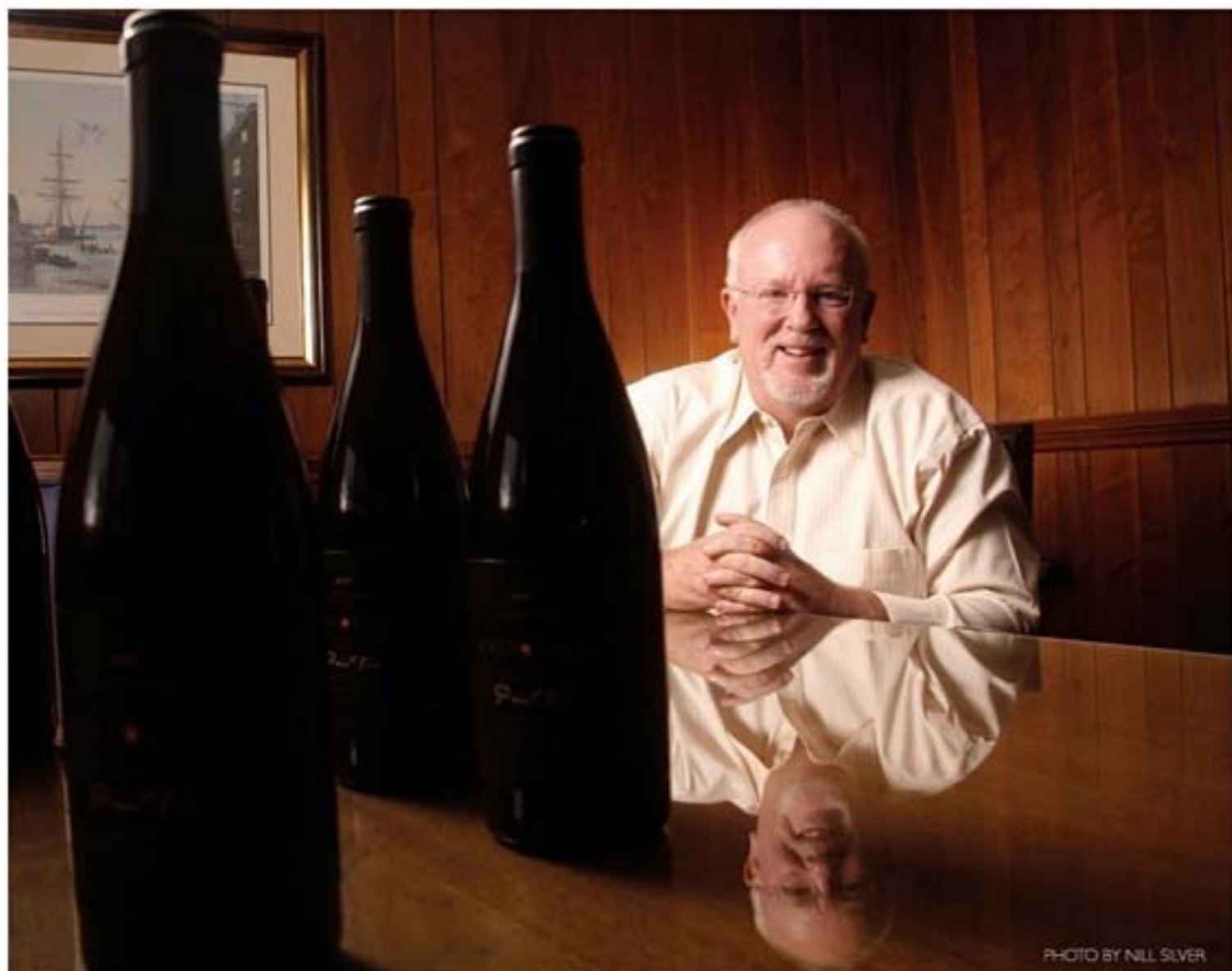


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»»Calicaro Wine

How many of us get swept off our feet by a hobby, a project, a new found passion? Lots of us. How many of us actually have the courage to follow that passion? Not so many. But Greenville attorney Dave Ball went with his dream, and did exactly that.

"Wine is addictive," he says. And so the lawyer, whose day job is taken up with health care business transactions, has done a one-eighty and gone whole-heartedly into the romance of wine making. "A couple of years ago I was in California at a health law conference and we had a wine tasting. One of the other attorneys was pouring his own wine at the tasting. I thought, if he can do this then so can I," he says. "I love practicing law but have always looked for ways to counterbalance that. Wine is so special and has such a rich history. The growing, harvesting, fermenting, aging, blending, it is made to be shared and enjoyed with family and friends."

Ball says he wanted to share his passion for good wines with Greenville. "I wanted to create a pipeline for some really good wine to Greenville. A lot of the best wine does not make it to Greenville. It never leaves the state of California." He has teamed up with California wine maker Chris Nelson to personally develop Pinot Noirs and a Cabernet Sauvignon, selling them in the Upstate to restaurants and selected distributors. The wines are already being carried by some of greater Greenville's premier restaurants – Soby's, Devereaux, Rick Erwin's and the venerable Pointsett Club, where they'll be available in November.

Ball says, "We are trying to make exceptionally good wine and bring it here, with a real Greenville connection, including label names that tie directly to significant places and people here in our state. Our roots are in California but our heads and hearts are here." Consequently, the winery

is named Calicaro, a hybrid of the words California and Carolinas. "Our specific bottling names will include place names and people including Poinsett, Liberty Bridge and Paris Mountain. Our Cabernet will be called Charles Towne."

Ball heads to California to personally get his hands dirty (rest assured, he is not doing a Lucille Ball thing and stomping the grapes personally, although that would make for great photos). But, he says he's really a hands-on wine maker. "We sort out leaves, bad fruit, anything else that is not fruit, we do a second sorting, the grapes are de-stemmed, and the berries move down the conveyor belt. Great fun and hard work, too."

For more information, visit www.calicaro.com