

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NAPA VALLEY

NAPA VALLEY

PEOPLE + STYLE + FOOD + SCENE + HOME

Life

**7TH ANNUAL
INTRIGUING ISSUE
CARMEN POLICY**

**PLUS LIVE ENTERTAINMENT,
ART, EVENTS, DINING &
MORE**



7TH ANNUAL INTRIGUING NAPA VALLEY

IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO INTRODUCE YOU TO INTRIGUING NAPA VALLEY RESIDENTS WORTH GETTING TO KNOW. THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS INCLUDE AN INTRIGUING FAMILY, A COUPLE, AN HEIRLOOM, A WINERY, AND A JOURNEY AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE A FASCINATING STORY TO TELL. THOUGH IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE ENOUGH SPACE TO EACH HONOREE, WE WERE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT MAKE'S THESE INDIVIDUALS TRULY INTRIGUING.

WRITTEN BY KARI RUEL
MAJORITY OF PHOTOS BY ART & CLARITY

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Policy is an attorney and former National Football League executive who is best known for his front office work for the San Francisco 49ers during the 1980's and 1990's. He became president in 1991 and played a key role in the 49ers Super Bowl victories in 1982, 1985, 1989, 1990 and 1995.

"Sports gives you a perspective you don't get anywhere else," said Policy.

Policy was a trial lawyer in Ohio when he met long-time friend and business associate, Eddie DeBartolo, Jr. Policy originally came to the 49ers as acting counsel and helped negotiate Bill Walsh's first contract with the 49ers.

"At first I viewed the 49ers as just a client, but then the love and attraction grew," he said. "Football went beyond intoxication and there was an emotional addiction."

Policy left the 49ers in 1998 when an opportunity to buy into the Cleveland Browns became available, but he and his wife, Gail, missed California.

"We love the Valley. After the 1995 Super Bowl, we escaped to Meadowood."

In 2003, the Policys bought fourteen-acres in Yountville and began constructing a "Mediterranean, Italian, Napa" contemporary style home and planted ten-acres of cabernet grapes. The couple moved in a year ago.

"We truly appreciate the beauty of this Valley and want to do our part to give back," said Policy.

Policy was instrumental in the building of a new football field at Justin Siena and Gail is active in the St. Helena Hospital Foundation.

Now Policy is focusing on his new venture coming out in Spring, the release of his 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon.

Wine making has been a passion for Policy since growing up on it back in the old Italian neighborhood in Ohio.

"Traveling with the teams, wine became part of the living routine and I knew I wanted to learn more and eventually make my own wine."

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CARMEN POLICY, 65 | FORMER NFL EXECUTIVE AND VINTNER

