

VINE WISE

Bianco on life as a grape rancher

Robert "Bobby" Bianco has been a grower of fresh fruits and vegetables for more than 40 years, and heads the Coachella Valley operations of Anthony Vineyards. This family owned and operated company was established in 1972 and Bianco is the co-owner and senior vice-president. He and his wife, Harlene, are strong supporters of the Boys and Girls Club of Coachella and he was named 2005 Agriculturist of the Year by the California Women for Agriculture, Coachella Valley Chapter.

FAVORITE FARMING TOOL A scalp massager (like they use in barber shops) to thin Perlette grapes.

FAVORITE TYPE OF HEAVY MACHINERY The owner's feet. He or she needs to be out there and in touch with the crops and workers.

MOST IMPORTANT FARMING SKILLS Perseverance and optimism.

WHAT FARMING TEACHES YOU ABOUT LIFE To take things as they come. With the right attitude you can always persevere.

FUTURE OF FARMING IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY It's dwindling, but the next 20 years will tell the tale.

BEST VARIETY OF GRAPE Flame seedless grapes. We were one of the first growers to have what has become an extremely popular grape.

FAVORITE RECIPE WITH GRAPES Nothing beats eating grapes just straight off the vine. They're the greatest snack food in the world.

ADVICE TO NEW FARMERS Choose well, adequately capitalize and be prepared to take a loss. Every year is different.

I HOPE THAT SOMEDAY...
my grandchildren will
be farmers.

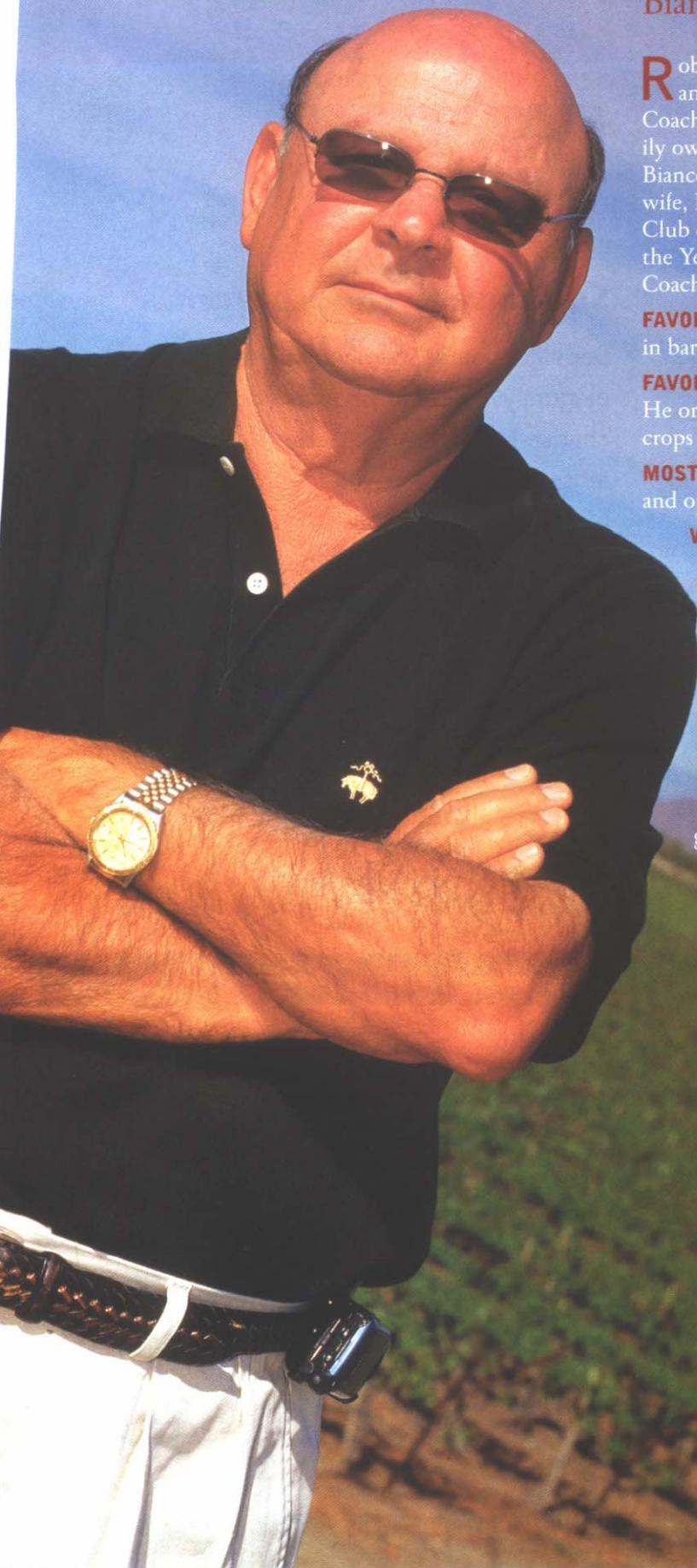


Photo by Tony Tomay