

JOE DUTTON, DUTTON RANCH (OWNER & GRAPE GROWER)

CO-OWNER, DUTTON ESTATE WINERY



Joe Dutton was born and raised near the town of Sebastopol on his family's ranch in the Green Valley. In 1964, five years before Joe was born, his parents, Warren and Gail purchased a parcel of property near the little town of Graton just outside of Sebastopol. The property was planted to French Colombard wine grapes and apples. Warren and Gail and named this land **DUTTON RANCH.** Joe became interested in the family business as a young boy. He grew up picking apples; operating the farm equipment and helping his father oversee the orchards and expanding vineyards every day after school and during summer vacations. Upon graduating from high school, Joe immediately pursued the family farming operation. By staying on the ranch and working beside his father, Joe's intuitive

vision to grow the family vineyard holdings was unlimited. With Joe's tireless dedication, perseverance and hard work, today Dutton Ranch consists of eighty parcels of property, totaling 1400 acres. 1200 acres of grapes consist of chardonnay, pinot noir, syrah, sauvignon blanc, and a few acres of Zinfandel and Pinot Gris. California Certified Organic Apple comprise the remaining acreage farmed, and the majority of the properties are within the Green Valley-Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast wine growing regions. The Dutton Ranch headquarters are located on the original "home ranch", planted to Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc as well as several variety of organic apples. The "home ranch", which is also referred to as "Shop Block", currently grows the oldest chardonnay vines in west Sonoma County, planted by Joe's father in 1967.

Joe perseveres with his father's legacy in achieving to produce world-class grapes through careful use of environmentally friendly and sustainable growing practices as a fifth-generation farmer. Joe oversees the vineyard and orchard operations of Dutton Ranch. He is dedicated to grow fruit with utmost quality and care, continually resulting in fruit that is always in high demand by the most recognized wine producers of California. Currently, Dutton Ranch sells grapes to approximately sixty different wineries; twenty of them respectfully use the Dutton Ranch designation on their label. Joe has been recognized as a leader in the Sonoma County farming industry and expresses his passion for agriculture through his hard work and appreciation for his family's farming business. Noted by Joe's wife, Tracy, "Joe is a true farmer and puts his heart into sustaining the land for future generations."

With Joe's days taken up at Dutton Ranch, he works closely with his wife and business partner, Tracy, at Dutton Estate Winery. Along with owing and managing the Dutton Ranch operation, growing and sourcing the fruit made into Dutton Estate wines, Joe assists Tracy in managing the winery operations at Dutton Estate, which produces and houses wines for several custom crush winery clients.

Joe is very involved in several organizations that support agriculture in Sonoma County. His involvement and roles include: President of Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Board of Directors Sonoma County Winegrape Commission, Executive Committee of Sonoma County Winegrape Commission, Board of Director for Sonoma County Harvest Fair, Board of Directors for S.A.V.E.

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