

DUTTON *Goldfield*

DAN GOLDFIELD

— PARTNER/WINEMAKER —

After being raised in Philadelphia, studying Chemistry and Philosophy at Boston's Brandeis University, and ski bumming a bit in Colorado and Utah, Dan made his way to California in 1980 to do chemistry research at UC Berkeley. His passion for wine was by this point well developed, having long ago been introduced to the 1969 Burgundies by his brother.

Interested in chemistry on the one hand and an outdoor enthusiast on the other, Dan's eventual decision to enter the University of California Davis to study winemaking made perfect sense. It would allow him to exercise his scientific leanings and be connected to the land, while indulging his increasingly curious palate.

Dan graduated with an M.S. in Enology from Davis in 1987 while working at Robert Mondavi Winery. Soon after graduation Dan joined Schramsberg, the renowned Napa sparkling wine producer, as associate winemaker. In 1990, Dan was recruited to be Winemaker at La Crema Winery, a Burgundian-focused winery in Russian River where Pinot Noir and Chardonnay were the main focus, a perfect fit given Dan's own immense enthusiasm for the two varietals.

A WINEMAKING AND VITICULTURAL EXPLOSION

In 1993, Jess Jackson purchased La Crema. A year later, based on a duo of remarkable 1994 Pinot Noirs Dan produced at La Crema using fruit from the Dutton-Sanchietti and Arrendell vineyards, Jess Jackson asked Dan to develop a new winery, Hartford Court, and focus specifically on cold-climate Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from western Sonoma County.

Between 1990 and 1998, Dan played a key role in developing the reputation of western Sonoma County for producing California's finest Pinot Noir. Working often with Steve Dutton, Dan went about developing and making wine from a number of new vineyards in the colder reaches of the Sonoma Coast appellation that had never seen vineyards before. Dan's appreciation for new, even experimental, vineyards and his search for vineyards with unique personalities earned him a reputation as a talented and innovative winemaker. His groundbreaking work with cold-climate winemaking at La Crema and Hartford Court attracted a number of assistant winemakers who would go on to continue the cold-climate winemaking movement at Flowers, Williams-Selyem, Hartford Court, La Crema and Alderbrook.

"The 1990s really brought on the beginnings of a winemaking and viticultural explosion in West Sonoma," recalls Goldfield. "We were planting vineyards in areas that many thought too cold to produce quality grapes and turning out wines of great quality. It's still going on today. Many of the most promising of these vineyards are just now coming into production."

FOLLOWING A PHILOSOPHY

Dan and Steve decided to launch their own winery in 1998, pursuing their philosophy to make wines that express the personality of a unique vineyard that is perfectly placed and planted. Today, Dan spends his days making the Dutton-Goldfield wines, handling the winery's administrative chores, and sharing his passion for the Russian River Valley and cold-climate winemaking. His rare moments of free time are spent with his wife Dr. Loie Sauer, a surgeon, children Jamie and Emily, and on the seat of his bike enjoying the beauty of west Sonoma County.