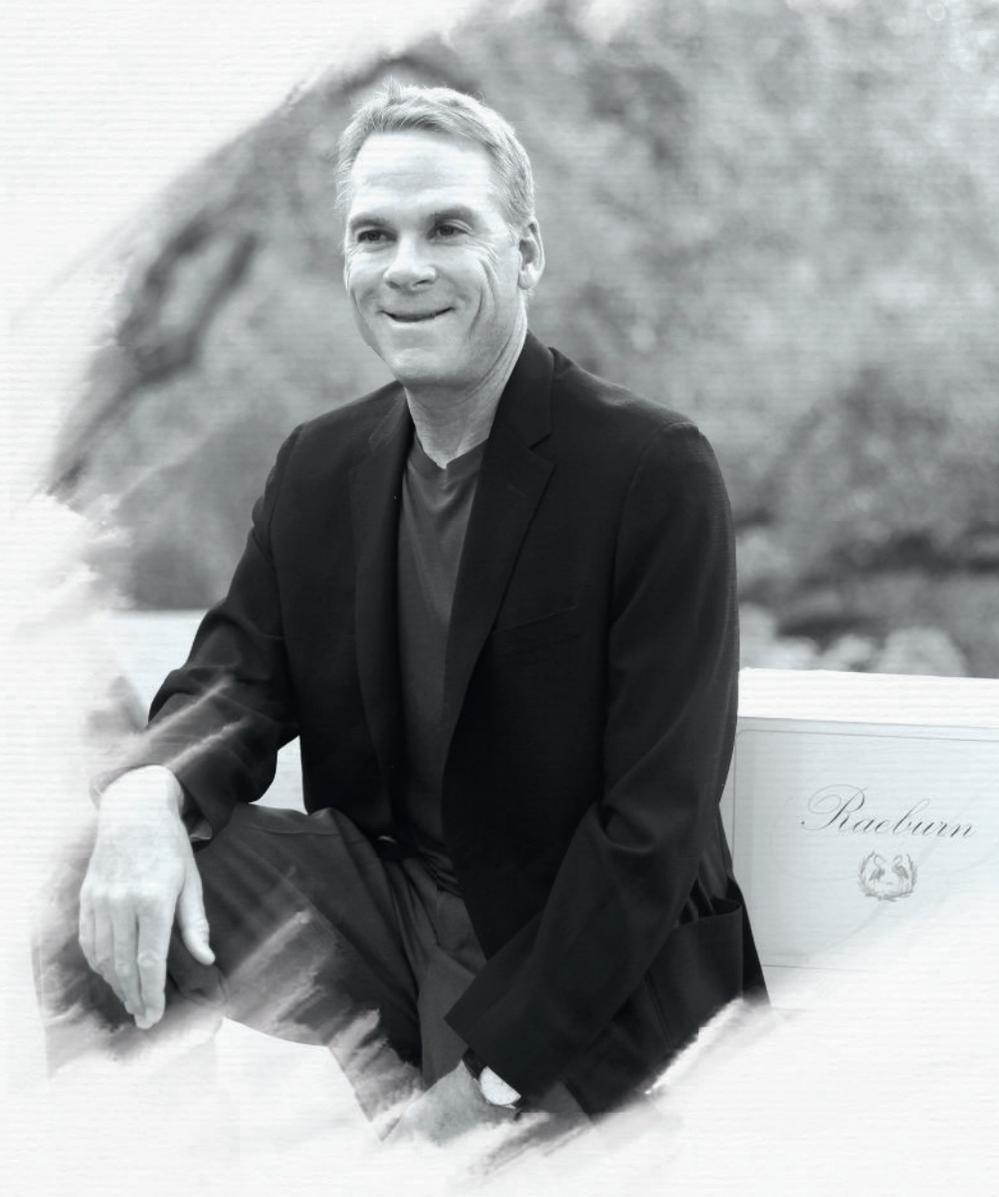


Raeburn

WINERY

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY



DEREK BENHAM

Proprietor

Derek was born and raised in Bakersfield, California, a gritty little place at the southern end of the great San Joaquin Valley best known for its Kern County crude and country western music. During the hot summers, Derek worked in the fields pulling weeds, picking potatoes, trellising grapes while listening to Buck Owens and Merle Haggard. It was God awful work but it shaped him for the long haul and definitely planted the seed of his love of wine.

As Derek grew up, his mother Phyllis, an ardent environmentalist and bird watcher, frequently took young Derek into the Sierras for long hikes, camp outs and bird counts. She was fearless, spending days in the mountains on her own with a young child and a notebook to record her wildlife and bird observations. Her love of nature inspired her son to follow in her footsteps whenever possible.

Derek attended the University of California, graduating in the late 70s, and joined the wine industry in sales with a Lodi based winery. In 1990, Derek and his brother founded Codera Wine Group and created the Blackstone brand. Two years later, the brothers purchased the old Hallberg apple cannery in Graton, California which had been converted to a winery in 1979. After seven successful years, Blackstone was sold in 2001. That same year, Codera was dissolved and Derek started Purple Wine Company based in Graton.

In 2014, Derek created Raeburn. His mother's influence is felt throughout from the egret crest on the label to the Olde English word "Raeburn – the stream where one goes to drink."

When he's away from the winery, Derek is on the slopes skiing or paddling out to catch his next wave. He enjoys traveling with his wife and three children and most importantly, he enjoys a good sunset with a glass of Raeburn in hand.

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