

Raeburn

WINERY

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY



JOE TAPPARO

Winemaker

Raeburn Winemaker Joe Tapparo was raised in Sonoma County surrounded by vineyards and wineries. As a young man, he helped his godfather plant a Pinot Noir vineyard in the Russian River Valley, his first exposure to this world-class winegrowing region. As he worked amongst the young vines, Joe daydreamed about the day that he would make his own wine.

Joe's dream led him to study Viticulture and Enology at University of California, Davis. Post-graduation, he dove in. He interned at Gallo's research winery in Sonoma County, as well as Geyser Peak Winery. In addition, Joe worked a harvest in the Livermore growing region, and was a pest control advisor in Sonoma County.

All these experiences shaped Joe's passion for winemaking, and in 2008, he was hired by Purple Wine + Spirits to work at the Olivet facility in the Russian River Valley. In 2011, Joe was promoted to Assistant Winemaker followed by a much-deserved promotion to Winemaker in 2013. His first vintage of Raeburn, the 2013 Raeburn Chardonnay, earned critical acclaim including a Best of Class/Gold medal at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair. Most recently, the Chardonnay was named Editors' Choice by Wine Enthusiast. In late 2017, Joe harkened back to his Russian River Pinot Noir roots with the launch of Raeburn Pinot Noir.

Passionate about basketball, Joe can usually be found on the court if he's not in the cellar. He also enjoys mountain biking in Sonoma's beautiful back country.

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