

ROBERT DAFOE

Robert DaFoe is a filmmaker, photographer, artist and former professional snowboarder. He is the founder of Sonnet29 Motion Arts, an independent production company. From Ground to Glass, DaFoe's first feature film, will premiered at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival at Victoria Hall Theater. From Ground to Glass is a documentary that follows Rob's quest to make wine and understand the draw to the wine lifestyle. His film showcases trailblazing vintners, growers and home winemakers whose passion for wine propels the first time winemaker to fulfill a dream.

DaFoe was born in Santa Barbara, California and graduated from Dos Pueblos High School in nearby Goleta. After high school, he set off to see the world, beginning with trips to Mexico and Europe, followed by a skateboarding road trip through Canada.

On his way home, he made a stop to visit friends in Lake Tahoe, where his skateboarding and surfing skills naturally translated to the slopes. There, he got hooked on the infant sport of snowboarding and rapidly advanced to professional status, traveling the world to compete in the sport's top events.

Along the way, DaFoe cultivated his artistic interests. He co-directed two internationally distributed action sports videos as well as helping to promote and brand companies such as Arnette, Quiksilver Snow, Nitro Snowboards, Evol Snowboards, SMP Clothing and Volcom. During that time writing and photographing numerous articles for top snowboarding publications and designing and building the original in ground elements and rail slides that made the Snowboard Park at Bear Mountain, CA, world famous and the standard for park design to this day.

Injuries later forced DaFoe to retire from snowboarding, ending his eight-year career in the sport. His disappointment was tempered by a sense of opportunity and inner exploration. He soon decided to focus on his love for film and art. He returned to Santa Barbara, and in 2000 moved just over the mountain to the Santa Ynez Valley wine country. There, he performed promotional video and photographic services for wineries, special events and other businesses. He also painted, rode horses and explored moviemaking.

Later, his professional and artistic interests converged in the cellar of a winery. Inspired to craft his own wine, and to document the process on film, DaFoe enlisted the help of a local winemaker. What started as a window into the winemaking process, however, became a larger story as DaFoe began interviewing winemakers, growers, home enthusiasts and visionaries from all over California. The result is From Ground to Glass, an unique cinematic journey into the world of wine.

After the film debut at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, DaFoe has shown the film locally as well as at other film festivals, with the intent of securing broad-market release. As of December 2008 the film is available on DVD.

"The completion of From Ground to Glass marks the start of a new adventure for me," DaFoe says. "In making this film, I interviewed a lot of people who caught the wine bug and went 90 degrees in their career paths to make a life of wine. It's something that's both familiar and inspiring to me."

