

SYNOPSIS

When filmmaker Rob DaFoe decided to make wine in California's Santa Ynez Valley, he lacked a few crucial ingredients—such as grapes, barrels and a winery. But it did not take long for the local winemaking community to step up and give him a hand.

The Santa Ynez Valley unfolds inland from the Pacific Ocean in the heart of the Santa Barbara County wine country, which is today regarded as one of California's most dynamic winegrowing regions. DaFoe, a native of nearby Goleta, returned to the area in 2000 after retiring from professional snowboarding. As an artist and wine enthusiast, he soon became fascinated by the idea of crafting his own wine.

A full year before the crew behind the hit film *Sideways* came to this same region to shoot their fictional love affair with wine, DaFoe, with his camera rolling, set out to make wine, and to document the winemaking process. A ranching accident sent him to a local doctor, who just happened to own a vineyard—and who offered DaFoe some Syrah grapes. A friend at a local winery referred DaFoe to a winemaker, who gamely offered his equipment, winery and expertise. DaFoe was in business.

As DaFoe chronicled the winemaking process—literally from ground to glass—he felt increasingly drawn to the mysticism of wine, to its unique alchemy of nature, culture, art and science. A documentary that was to focus on the methods of winemaking thus evolved into a film about the magic of wine.

While his two barrels were aging, DaFoe packed his camera and hit the road, interviewing winemakers and winegrowers across California, including legendary vintners such as Paul Draper at Ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Joel Peterson at Ravenswood in Sonoma Valley, and Warren Winiarski at Stag's Leap in Napa Valley. In their own words, these winemakers share the personal challenges and triumphs that set them on the path of wine.

With gritty and often humorous detail, *From Ground to Glass* documents DaFoe's personal crash course in winemaking. It also cleverly interweaves insights and stories from the almost two dozen winemakers, who lead DaFoe and the viewer ever closer to the soul of wine.

The result is an unprecedented documentary that will change how people view and appreciate the art of making wine.

“Rob's keen sense of aesthetics creates a feast for the eyes as he shows the extraordinary natural beauty in the vineyards in every stage of development throughout the growing seasons of the year. Bravo!”

Richard Sanford, Alma Rosa Winery-Santa Rita Hills Pioneer

“With FROM GROUND TO GLASS, Rob DaFoe delivers a stunningly beautiful, fascinating and often humorous film that truly reveals the passion for winemaking through the eyes of its artisans.”

Cevin Cathell, Program Director, Santa Barbara International Film festival

“From Ground to Glass is a warm tale...” with “...beautiful photography of vineyard after vineyard in spectacular natural light...”

Laurie Jervis, News Editor, Santa Maria Times

“Congratulations on such a fine film.”

Judy Willis, Montecito Journal

