

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Christopher Weir
(805) 239-0020
cw@mooncatcher.com

FILMMAKER UNCORKS THE WORLD OF CALIFORNIA WINE

Robert DaFoe's "From Ground to Glass" World Premiere at Santa Barbara International Film Festival on February 10

Santa Ynez, CA—What began as a personal winemaking adventure for filmmaker Robert DaFoe became an unprecedented cinematic journey into the world of California wine, culminating in a documentary film that will premiere at the 21st Santa Barbara International Film Festival on February 10. The film, entitled *From Ground to Glass*, showcases trailblazing vintners, growers and home winemakers who, in their own words, share the personal challenges and triumphs that set them on the path of wine.

"Many of these winemakers are people who caught the wine bug and went 90 degrees in their career paths to make a life of wine," said DaFoe, a resident of Santa Barbara County's Santa Ynez Valley, which recently gained fame as the setting for the hit film *Sideways*. "They all have fascinating stories. They are diverse and eclectic as a group, but they are united by a passion for wine. This film invites the viewer into their world."

From Ground to Glass features winemaking luminaries from across California, including Warren Winiarski, Joel Peterson, Paul Draper, Chuck Ortman, Richard Sanford, Jim Clendenen, Ken Brown and Brooks Firestone. It also features up-and-coming winemakers including Wes Hagen and Mike Sinor.

"I knocked on a lot of doors and almost all of them opened," DaFoe said. "This film puts the faces and voices with the labels. You hear their stories of why they make wine and how they did it." DaFoe will be available for audience Q&A sessions after the premiere and subsequent screenings.

DaFoe is a former professional snowboarder and a self-employed filmmaker, photographer and artist. The origins of *From Ground to Glass* date back to the 2002 harvest, when DaFoe was inspired to craft his own wine—and to document the process on film. Enlisting the help of Winemaker Chuck Carlson at Curtis Winery in the Santa Ynez Valley, DaFoe proceeded to make two barrels of Syrah under the label of Crimson Ghost.

"The filming started out as a window into the process of making wine," DaFoe said. "But as the wine was aging, my focus turned to interviewing winemakers, growers, home enthusiasts and visionaries from all over California. It was an organic process. I discovered a larger story along the way. It is their story as well as my story."

The 65-minute documentary will premiere at the 21st Santa Barbara International Film Festival (www.sbfilmfestival.org) on February 10 at the Victoria Hall Theater at 3:30 p.m., with an encore performance at the same time and theater on February 12. Victoria Hall is at 33 W. Victoria Street. Schedule is subject to change. After the festival, DaFoe will show the film locally and at other film festivals, with the intent of securing broad-market release. Visit www.sonnet29films.com for updates and information.

Tickets are on sale at the Lobero Theatre, the official SBIFF Box Office, toll free 888.456.2376 or in person at the Lobero Theatre Box Office, 33 E. Canon Perdido Street, S.B. 93101. Box Office hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 12 noon to 5 p.m. and two hours prior to all

performances. www.lobero.com. Local Box office phone is 805.963.0761 or visit www.sbfilmfestival.org. Call the SBIFF Box Office at 888.456.2376 for more information.

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High-resolution photos and 30-second film preview clip available upon request

PRESS CONTACTS:

Santa Barbara Press Contact: Maureen McFadden
McFadden & McFadden Entertainment P.R.
21 E. Canon Perdido St. #205
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Ph- 805.966.0190
momcfadden@aol.com

National Press Contacts: Carol Marshall, Alanna Kordell
Carol Marshall Public Relations, Inc.
4605 Lankershim Blvd. # 102
North Hollywood, CA 91602
Ph – 818.760.6450
Carol@cmarshallpr.com Alanna@cmarshallpr.com