



RYAN STAPLETON
DIRECTOR, GROWER RELATIONS



Ryan Stapleton's journey to a career in Sonoma County wine country began when he left the famed region. With a passion for cooking, Ryan left his hometown and moved to Colorado to pursue a culinary degree, eventually finding a role at Ling and Louie's restaurant, managing their wine and spirits department. There, he unwrapped his love for wine, even winning an incentive for selling the most Francis Coppola Director's Wine in 2007. While his interest in wine grew, his temptation to return to California surfaced.

Stapleton moved back to Sonoma County in 2009 and experienced his first harvest at Francis Ford Coppola Winery as a Sugar Sampler and fell in love with the role. He soon enrolled in Santa Rosa Junior College to earn his degree in Viticulture, and in 2010 accepted a full-time position at the winery as a Viticulture Technician. After a brief venture into grape selling, Stapleton returned to The Family Coppola, passionately bridging the gap between land and brand as Grower Relations Manager. By 2018, Stapleton elevated to Director of Grower Relations, overseeing the department responsible for leading more than 200 grape growers across California and Oregon.

Along with his team of viticulturists, Stapleton manages The Family Coppola's estate vineyards as well.

“Having this opportunity to work with so many growers is amazing,” says Stapleton. “I love when I am able to work with multi-generational growers and learn about their properties. However the property original started - as a dairy or prune orchard - getting to know their families is a lot of fun. It is so nice to tell each family's story as to how they have come to be in the wine business.”

When Stapleton is not traveling the state of California or Oregon for work, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Jamie, and four-year-old daughter, Quinn. He is also an active member of the Santa Rosa Junior College Viticulture Advisory Board, Sonoma-Marin Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers, and is the Co-Executive Director of the Pine Mountain-Cloverdale Peak AVA.