



RYAN DECKER
VITICULTURIST

Ryan is a Northern California native with farming roots that go back five generations. His great, great grandfather settled in Alexander Valley in 1858, and his relatives still farm the same property to this day. He began his wine career in hospitality, working at a tasting room in Healdsburg for two years before transferring to California State University – Fresno, obtaining a B.S. in Viticulture in 2006.

Ryan came to Clos du Val in early 2022 with extensive winegrowing experience. He spent the first 15 years of his career at Rodney Strong Vineyards where he started as a field scout and moved up to manage the winery's 75+ grower portfolio that stretched across seven California counties. In 2018, he was promoted to Director of Estate Vineyards where he managed 850 estate vineyard acres for the winery.

Ryan has planted hundreds of acres of vineyards, ranging from high-yielding valley floor vineyards to high-end hillside and mountain-top locations. He has studied under several well-known viticultural consultants and has been a member of numerous industry boards and technical groups. To bolster his winegrowing knowledge, Ryan spent time in Burgundy, France and Mendoza, Argentina. He has also served as a guest speaker on industry panels and at educational seminars.

Aside from growing world-class grapes, Ryan enjoys hiking, camping, making beer and wine, and restoring old motorcycles. He can also be spotted on any of the local disc golf courses in the area, or on the sidelines watching his kids play basketball, soccer, or volleyball.