



SEQUANA

JAMES MACPHAIL, WINEGROWER



Rising Star to All Star – James MacPhail quickly earned a reputation for bringing out the best in single vineyard Pinot Noir. Beginning in the mid-1990s, he carefully designed his winemaking education by working with Pinot Noir leaders Merry Edwards and Gary Farrell. Today, James is dedicated exclusively to producing small lots of distinctive Pinot Noir.

James enjoys industry-wide respect for his consistent track record, producing prized wines from vineyards in the Sonoma Coast and Anderson Valley appellations under his own label, MacPhail Family Wines. His acclaimed wines captured the attention of industry veteran Tom Selfridge. In 2007, Tom approached James and asked him to create a new winery – Sequana. James accepted the leadership role because, “It gives me the rare opportunity to work with vineyards in two of California’s finest Pinot Noir appellations: Green Valley of Russian River Valley and Santa Lucia Highlands.” Sequana is his only project other than his own label, MacPhail Family Wines.

James has cultivated close relationships with the finest growers in the cool climate regions of the California coast. Mindful of the strong connection between vineyard and grape quality, he works only with sustainably-grown grapes. All the vineyards are small, family-owned and eco-friendly. “These farmers really share my passion,” he says.

A modern man who enjoys his iPod and Blackberry, James works in the gentle world of traditional winemaking. He makes his Pinot Noirs by hand in small batches, using cold maceration and native yeasts. These techniques respect the characteristic of each single vineyard, amplifying the aromas and flavors. “My goal is to express each vineyard’s personality,” says James.

A native of Marin County, California, James grew up in a family that balanced successful business ventures with world travel, time at the family dairy on the coast, sports, art and music. Today, as a star in the world of Pinot Noir, James enjoys travel, competitive swimming. He also plays the bagpipe and classical piano. His home is outside the town of Healdsburg, in Sonoma County’s Dry Creek Valley