

Ryan Decker

Director of Estate Vineyards



Like many on our team, Ryan Decker's family history in farming extends back generations. His great-great grandfather came to California during the Gold Rush, then settled in Alexander Valley in 1858 as a rancher and farmer. Five generations later, the passion for working the land is alive and well in the Decker family. Raised in Healdsburg, Ryan began work for Rodney Strong in 2002 as part of the hospitality crew. He honed his palate with former Director of Wine Education Stefen Soltysiak before heading to Fresno State to earn a B.S. in Viticulture in 2006.

Ryan returned to Rodney Strong in early 2007 as Vineyard Specialist for the winegrowing department. Working directly with Doug McIlroy, he helped develop and implement the farming plan on all 11 of our estate vineyards. Ryan guided the winery and vineyards through the California Certified Sustainable Winegrowing program that led to Rodney Strong Vineyards becoming one of the first Certified Sustainable wineries in the state. Ryan now oversees all vineyard development and farming operations for our 1,200 acre estate vineyard portfolio. He works very closely with the rest of the winemaking team to ensure that every grape meets our very lofty quality standards. At the end of the day, you cannot make great wine with mediocre grapes!