



John Staten, Vintner (left) with Mentor André Tchelistcheff (right)

John C. Staten

Vintner

Born in West Texas and raised for brief periods of his life on a sheep ranch, Mr. Staten is not a stranger to the world of farming. His road to Field Stone, however, followed a circuitous route by way of another lengthy career, which he still pursues as his "passionate second vocation". After receiving his B.A. in history and philosophy from Stanford University in 1960, Mr. Staten went to Princeton Theological Seminary to study ancient biblical languages and literature. Following the receipt of his master's degree from Princeton he entered The University of Chicago in 1964 to study for his Ph.D. in Theology. While completing his doctorate he studied with the Protestant theologian, Paul Tillich, the French philosophical theologian, Paul Ricoeur, and Mircea Eliade, the pioneering historian of world religions.

Since 1969 Dr. Staten has taught on the west coast, heading the religion departments at Reed College in the Pacific Northwest and at Mills College in Oakland, California. A writer and lecturer in the Bay Area, he is also an ordained Presbyterian minister. For several years he served as an adjunct professor at the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo/Berkeley. His book entitled *Conscience and the Reality of God*, a study on the experiential basis of religious knowledge and ethics, was recently published by Mouton de Gruyter in Berlin.

Following the untimely death of Mr. Staten's father-in-law, Wallace Johnson, in 1979, Mr. Staten found himself propelled into the management of the family ranch, vineyards, and winery. With the assistance of his wife, Katrina, who serves as an officer of the corporation which they now both own with their four children, Mr. Staten has acquired a second vocation and a renewed love of the land and of wine. An eager student, winemaking and viticultural knowledge have come to Mr. Staten by what he terms "an initiation by fire". For more than a decade he has been "tutored" and assisted by the eminent winemaker, André Tchelistcheff, who served as his senior enologist and long-range adviser from 1979 through 1991. His son, Ben, joined the winery in 1990 following his graduation from Stanford. He is General Manager and heads up the winery's estate vineyard development.