



For immediate release

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***Taste Alexander Valley to Host Exclusive Opening Gala at
Alexander's Crown Vineyard Estate in Healdsburg***

***Private hilltop estate overlooking Alexander Valley is setting for June 4th gala --
prelude to 13th annual Sonoma County wine and food weekend***

April 27, 2010 – Healdsburg, CA – Taste Alexander Valley – (TAV), the annual wine tasting weekend hosted by the Alexander Valley Winegrowers (AVW), is kicking off this year's festivities with a not-to-be-missed gala at a private Healdsburg estate on Friday, June 4, 2010 at 5:00 pm.

Site of the renowned Rodney Strong *Alexander's Crown Vineyard*, the 66-acre estate and vineyard property overlooking the entire Alexander Valley, is the perfect setting for an evening of local reserve and library wines, gourmet food and live music, courtesy of the jumpin' R&B group, Stompy Jones. *

While enjoying the amazing hilltop and valley views, gala guests will sip cocktail hour wines poured by AVW member winemakers, vintners and owners, followed by a unique wine country offering of small, unique plates and passed hors d'oeuvres created by culinary talent Tim Vallery, owner/chef of Peloton Catering of Healdsburg**. Vallery will interact with guests while preparing and serving dishes such as Braised Sonoma Lamb and Strozzapreti; Marscapone Polenta with Exotic Mushroom Sautee; and, Liberty Duck Ravioli, among many other dishes.

The next morning, Saturday, June 5, the two-day wine tasting and food pairing festivities begin at AVW-member venues throughout the Alexander Valley. More than 35 wineries are participating and all have big plans in store.

For example, Francis Ford Coppola Winery in Geyserville is partnering with Rosso Pizzeria to serve traditional Neapolitan wood fired pizzas, while guests barrel sample or try a hand at creating their own custom blend.

Another TAV host, Sausal Winery, located on Highway 128 in Healdsburg, will be sharing their 2007 Private Reserve Zinfandel (from 90 year-old vines), along with Pork Cheek Sliders and Sour Cherry Mostarda created by chef/owners Duskie Estes and John Stewart of Zazu and Bovolo Restaurants. Sausal guests will relax to the smooth sounds of the Kai Devitt-Lee Trio while enjoying beautiful vineyard views of their family-owned estate.

The Outlaw 7, a group of small artisan AVW producers, will be entertaining collectively at the Geyserville Inn. They will be pairing Chilled Sea Bass and Bay Scallop Ceviche with chilled white and rosé wines courtesy of Kelley & Young and Quaking Hills. The red wines of Icaria, Joseph Family Winery, Mojon's Bench Winery, Pendleton Estate Wines and Wilson & Fleming Estate Winery will be paired with Slow Braised Pork Shoulder with a Sweet Chili and Garlic Barbecue Sauce, accompanied by Fresh Mango and Ginger Salad. Guests will experience the western swing music of the Susan Comstock Swingtet while swirling and sipping.

Ticket Information

Friday night Opening Gala tickets are \$90 per person and must be purchased in advance. With limited space, the Gala will sell out quickly. Weekend passes (valid for both days – 11am to 4pm) are \$65 per person in advance and \$75 per person the day of event. Both Gala and weekend passes are available at www.alexandervalley.org or by calling 1-888-463-0207. Local information is available at 888-289-4637.

Partners and Sponsors

Opening Gala partners include Wine Country Party Rentals, Peleton Catering, Costeaux French Bakery, California Lamb and Bridge Brand Chocolates. Event sponsors are *Wine & Spirits Magazine*, the Krush, (KRSH- 95.9FM), Wine 2.0, *The Press Democrat* and American AgCredit.

Participants

Winery participants to date include Alexander Valley Vineyards, Clos du Bois, deLorimier Winery, Field Stone Winery & Vineyard, Francis Ford Coppola Winery, Garden Creek Winery, Hanna Winery & Vineyards, Hart's Desire Wines, Hawkes Wine, Icaria Winery, Joseph Family Vineyards, J. Rickards Winery, Kelley & Young, Medlock Ames, Mercury Wine, Mojon's Bench Winery, Palmeri Wines, Pech Merle, Pendleton Estate, Quaking Hills Winery, Robert Young Estate Winery, Rodney Strong Vineyards, Sapphire Hill Winery, Sausal Winery, Silver Oak Cellars, Simi Winery, Souverain, Starlite Vineyards, Stonestreet Winery, Stryker Sonoma, Stuhlmuller Vineyards,

Trentadue Winery, Trione Vineyards & Winery, White Oak Vineyards & Winery and Wilson Fleming Estate Winery.

About Alexander Valley

An hour north of the Golden Gate Bridge lies the Alexander Valley, located at the northern end of Sonoma County. The Alexander Valley is 22 miles long and varies in width from two to seven miles. There are 76,900 acres of land, of which 15,000 acres are planted to premium wine grapes. World-famous Cabernet Sauvignon grapes thrive from the Valley floor all the way up the rolling hillsides and mountain ridges. The gravelly loam soils straddling the river encourage Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Merlot to flourish. Alexander Valley also produces Zinfandel grapes as well as Rhone varietals, such as Syrah and Viognier.

* www.stompyjones.com and for a review, visit: <http://www.examiner.com/x-36799-San-Diego-Concert-Photography-Examiner-y2010m2d2-Stompy-Jones-at-the-Dreamcatcher-Showroom>

** <http://pelotonrestaurant.homestead.com/index.html>

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