



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**The Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance Presents *VinOlivo*
Sumptuous Tasting of Sonoma Valley Wine, Cuisine and Olive Oil
Celebrates the 5th Annual Sonoma Valley Olive Festival**

SONOMA, Calif. (February 7, 2006) – The Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance (SVVGA) will host their annual fundraising event *VinOlivo* on Saturday, February 18, 2006 at the Lodge at Sonoma Renaissance and Spa, as part of the 5th Annual Sonoma Valley Olive Festival. This epicurean showcase features a sparkling wine reception, food samplings from the valley's finest restaurants, Sonoma Valley appellation wines and barrel tastings, a port and chocolate pairing and the Wine Marketplace highlighting Sonoma Valley wine and olive oil. *VinOlivo* will also include a silent auction featuring signed magnums and reserve case lots, as well as a ¼ barrel futures auction, hosted by renowned auctioneer Dave Reynolds, and live entertainment by *American Standard Band* featuring local favorite, Rich Little.

“The Sonoma Valley Olive Festival is a great time of the year! This is a festival that is unique to our valley, and we are thrilled to be a part of this annual celebration,” said Grant Raeside, SVVGA Executive Director. “*VinOlivo* is sure to become a not-to-be-missed affair for anyone passionate about Sonoma Valley food and wine.”

VinOlivo attendees will enjoy world-class wine and food from more than twenty Sonoma Valley wineries and 10 local restaurants. Participating wineries include Audelssa Estate, Benziger Family Winery, B.R. Cohn, Chateau St. Jean, Charles Creek, Cline Cellars, Colin Lee,

Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Foundation Beneficiaries: F.I.S.H., Hanna Boys Center, Kenwood Education Foundation, La Luz, Sonoma Community Center, Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma Valley Community Health Center, Sonoma Valley Education Foundation, Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation, Sonoma Valley Mentoring, Wilmar, Valley of the Moon Boys & Girls Club, and Vineyard Workers Services.

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Deerfield Ranch, GlenLyon, Gloria Ferrer, Haywood Estate, Kunde Estate, Larson Family Winery, Ledson, Little Family Vineyards, Moon Mountain, Navillus Birney, Nicholson Ranch, Parmelee-Hill, Petroni, Ravenswood, Robledo, St. Francis, Ty Caton, Valley of the Moon, VJB Vineyards & Cellars and Wellington Vineyards.

Restaurant and caterer sponsors include Meritage Martini & Oyster Bar, Basque Boulangerie Café, The Swiss Hotel, girl and the fig, El Dorado Kitchen, Carneros Bistro, Plaza Bistro, The Epicurean Connection, Mary's Pizza Shack, The Red Grape, Gramma's Pizza, Fiorini Cakes and Cookies, Olive & Vine Catering, Maya, Saddles Steak House and more.

VinOlivo is being held at the Lodge at Sonoma Renaissance and Spa located at 1325 Broadway on Saturday, February 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$65 per person in advance and \$75 per person if purchased at the door on the day of the event. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact the SVVGA office at (707) 935-0803 or visit www.sonomavalleywine.com. Special olive festival room packages are being offered from December 3 through February 26 at the Lodge at Sonoma. For more information, call (707) 935-6600 or visit www.thelodgeatsonoma.com.

“We are very excited to host *VinOlivo* at the Lodge at Sonoma this year,” says General Manager Donna Collings. “This event is a great opportunity for locals and visitors alike to celebrate everything the Sonoma Valley has to offer.”

About the Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance (SVVGA)

The Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance (SVVGA) is a unique non-profit organization. It was formed in 1992 through a merger of the Sonoma Valley Vintners Association and the Sonoma Valley Grape Growers Association. Hundreds of vintners and growers are sharing a mission to promote Sonoma Valley wines and grapes, support cooperation and collaboration among vintners and growers, and develop community awareness of the industry. The annual Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction is produced by the Alliance and has raised over \$4 million for local Charities over the last 13 years. For more information on the SVVGA, please call (707) 935-0803 or visit www.sonomavalleywine.com.

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About The Sonoma Valley Olive Festival

The Sonoma Valley Olive Festival, currently in its fifth year, is a celebration of the senses. Taking place December through February, the Olive Festival brings special events to the Sonoma Valley, as well as a range of festival promotions with local lodging, spas, wineries, restaurants and retail shops. For additional information on the Sonoma Valley Olive Festival including event specifics and information on Olive Festival sponsors and participants, please contact the Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau at (707) 996-1090, or visit the Sonoma Valley Olive Festival's Web site at www.olivefestival.com.

About The Lodge at Sonoma Renaissance Resort & Spa

The Lodge at Sonoma, A Renaissance Resort and Spa, is an intimate world-class resort and exclusive spa destination just one mile from the historic Sonoma Plaza. Serving up a feast for the senses, the resort features a cozy home-away-from-home appeal paired with sophistication and style. Guests and visitors may dine at Carneros Restaurant where a bounty of local artisan-inspired dishes are served daily, or find solitude at Raindance Spa, surrounded by a tranquil spa garden. For more information, call (707) 935-6600 or visit www.thelodgeatsonoma.com.

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