



For more information, contact:

Jane Hodges Young

707-837-2735

janeyoung@comcast.net

Third annual Topel blending party celebrates “Love and Meritage”

Healdsburg, CA, Thursday, January 20, 2011— Back by popular demand and just in time for Valentine’s Day, Topel Tasting Room will host its third annual “Love and Meritage” wine blending party on Sunday, February 13.

Topel winemaker Mark Topel and Ziggy Eschliman (Ziggy, The Wine Gal on KRSR Radio) will once again host the event, which is one of the favorite affairs of the year at the trendy Healdsburg tasting room. The party not only shows how the winemaker practices his craft, but also provides each couple with their own exclusive bottle of wine, perfect to share over Valentine’s Day dinner.

Mark and Ziggy will lead participants through the nuances of blending, long considered to be the highest form of the winemaker’s art. They’ll discuss characteristics of the different varietals and the impact of each on the final Cuveé. Each participant (or couple) will then create their own bottle of blended wine, with the opportunity of having an additional case of wine custom blended to their particular specifications.

“This event sells out every year and is a great way to celebrate Valentine’s Day,” said Donnis Topel, co-proprietor of Topel Winery and manager of the boutique winery’s tasting room. “There’s really nothing nicer than joining hands, hearts and palates to create a custom blended wine. It’s fun, and it’s romantic!”

Cost for the class is \$75 per person or \$100 per couple and includes one bottle of specially blended wine, plus appetizers. Reservations are required in advance, as space is strictly limited to 12-18 participants. Those wishing to have a case of their custom blend can do so for an additional charge of \$415 — or roughly \$35 per bottle.

TOPEL WINERY

For reservations, call Donnis Topel at 707-433-4116 or email donnis@topelwines.com. Visit us online at www.topelwines.com or www.facebook.com/topelwinery.