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## Topel blending party salutes “Love & Meritage”

**Healdsburg, CA, Monday, January 16, 2012**—They may sing about “Love Potion No. 9,” but when it comes to celebrating Valentine’s Day in Sonoma Wine Country, it’s Topel Tasting Room’s annual “Love & Meritage” blending party that attracts true romantics.

This year’s event — the fourth annual — will begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday, February 12, at Topel’s popular Healdsburg tasting room, located at 125 Matheson Street, just steps off Healdsburg Plaza. Topel winemaker Marcus Topel will pair up with KRSH Radio’s Ziggy Eschliman, best known as Ziggy - The Wine Gal, to guide friends (with or without benefits) and lovers through the wine blending process. Premium varietals used in traditional Meritage blends and grown at the Topel Estate Winery outside Hopland will be brought to the tasting room in barrels so budding winemakers can blend to their hearts’ content.

“It’s a very special event that sells out quickly,” said Donnis Topel, co-proprietor of Topel Winery and manager of the boutique winery’s tasting room. “There’s really no better way to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Each couple blends their own bottle of wine and we apply a special label celebrating their effort. They can share it at their Valentine’s dinner or cellar it for another special occasion if they want to let the flavors mellow and age, just like a great relationship.”

Cost for the party is \$75 per person or \$100 per couple. Included is one bottle of specially blended wine, appetizers and a hands-on, personalized wine education experience with Marcus and Ziggy. Reservations are required in advance, as space is strictly limited to 12-18 couples. Those wishing to have a case (or two, or three!) of their specially labeled custom blend made after the event can do so for an additional charge of \$415 per case — or roughly \$35 per bottle.

For reservations, call Donnis Topel at 707-433-4116 or email [donnis@topelwines.com](mailto:donnis@topelwines.com). For more information, go online to [www.topelwines.com](http://www.topelwines.com) or [www.facebook.com/topelwinery](http://www.facebook.com/topelwinery).