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Holiday cheese & wine seminars at Topel Tasting Room will benefit Food For Thought AIDS Food Bank

Healdsburg, CA, November 7, 2008 — Just in time for holiday entertaining, the Topel Winery Tasting Room and The Cheese Shop of Healdsburg will offer a series of wine and cheese pairing seminars designed to help hosts and hostesses put together palate-friendly offerings for private dinners, parties and celebrations.

Proprietors/winemakers Mark and Donnis Topel and cheese monger Doralice Handal will conduct the classes, pairing California cheeses with four popular holiday wines — Topel's Gamay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah.

"Everyone thinks that pairing wine and cheese is simple," explained Donnis Topel. "The fact is that it can sometimes be complex and challenging to find just the right match. With the holidays on the horizon, we thought it would be a great time to explore various combinations, since cheese plates are part and parcel of many holiday celebrations." In addition to showcasing perfect wine and cheese pairings, Handal will also mix and match a few that aren't as compatible as a basis for comparison.

The classes will be held at the Topel Winery Tasting Room, located at 125 Matheson Street in Healdsburg, on the following Saturdays — November 22, 29 and December 20. Each session will last between 45 minutes and one hour and will start at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. Space is limited and reservations are suggested. Contact Donnis Topel by phone at 707-433-4116 or by email at donnis@topelwines.com.

As part of the event, the Topels will be donating 10 percent of all wine sales made on those dates to the Food For Thought Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank.

For further information, go to www.topelwines.com. Information on The Cheese Shop is available at www.doraliceimports.com. And to find out more about Food For Thought, go to www.fffthoodbank.org.

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