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**THE AHWAHNEE ANNOUNCES 2009 SEASON VINTNERS HOLIDAYS' LINEUP WITH
32 WORLD-CLASS CALIFORNIA WINERIES**

*28TH annual event celebrates viticulture with some of the top American winemakers in
unmatched setting of Yosemite National Park*

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — July 13, 2009 — The Ahwahnee, a full-service, AAA Four-Diamond hotel located in scenic Yosemite Valley, Calif., today announces its 2009 season lineup for the 28th annual Vintners' Holidays event series. Celebrating excellence in winemaking in an unmatched and beautiful natural setting in Yosemite National Park, Vintners' Holidays brings together 32 prominent California wineries over a series of eight sessions from November 1 to December 3. Participants are invited to meet, learn from and dine with different winemakers, winery owners and growers in each session, moderated by some of the most respected wine authorities in the country.

Since its inception as a small gathering of winemakers and hotel guests in the winter of 1982, Vintners' Holidays has become a premier and much-sought-after destination for wine aficionados and winemakers alike. Esteemed California winemakers making repeat appearances this year include **Iron Horse Vineyards, Joseph Phelps, Rombauer Vineyards, Saintsbury, Mumm Napa Estates, J Vineyards, Silver Oak Cellars, and Chalk Hill Estate Vineyards & Winery**. The newcomer spots are occupied this year by **Alma Rosa Winery & Vineyards, Huge Bear Wines, Ceja Vineyards, Topel Winery and Halleck Vineyard**.

"Vintners' Holidays is always a grand start to the holiday season at The Ahwahnee," said Chance Jorgensen, general manager of The Ahwahnee. "Combined with the 82nd Bracebridge Dinner this December and Chefs' Holidays in January 2010, which celebrates 25 years this season, I know of no other hotel that offers such a longstanding tradition of culinary experiences in the country. We delight in offering our guests an exceptional forum to get to know some of the best minds in food and wine, and to enjoy the product of this immense talent, in one of the most breathtaking winter settings imaginable."

Each session of Vintners' Holidays, guests are invited to take part in a "Meet the Winemakers" reception, participate in educational tasting seminars and enjoy a world-class, five-course gourmet dinner paired with that session's wines from **Executive Chef Percy Whatley**, served by candlelight in The Ahwahnee Dining Room.

The sessions are hosted and moderated by a leading expert in wine. This year Vinters' Holidays welcomes back **Evan Goldstein**, M.S., president of Full Circle Wine Solutions, Inc.; **Michael Stepanovich**, wine journalist and judge, **Gilles de Chambure**, M.S., director of wine education at Meadowood, **Dan Berger**, syndicated wine journalist and judge; and **Peter Marks**, M.W. and vice president of education, Icon Estates.

"I look forward to Vintners' Holidays every year," said Goldstein, a longtime session moderator and Vintners' Holidays participant for more than 20 years. "Not only do you have the best and the brightest from the California wine world in one room, but the events offer an inside look and exclusive tasting opportunity to all guests, thereby deepening their appreciation of wine and winemaking. It is truly a pleasure and a privilege to participate."

Vintners' Holidays offers everyone from the novice to the connoisseur an opportunity to participate in a part of viticulture, sharing the wineries' latest vintages and oftentimes rare and limited-release samples exclusively with guests. Each year brings a collection of new and returning vintners, some of whom have participated for more than 20 years.

The 2009 schedule is as follows:

Session I: November 1-3, 2009 (Sunday-Tuesday)

Moderator: Evan Goldstein, M.S., and president, Full Circle Wine Solutions, Inc.
Rob McNeil, **Mumm Napa Estates**
Tom Rinaldi, **Provenance Vineyards**
George Bursick, **J Vineyards & Winery**
Ed Sbragia, **Sbragia Family Vineyards**

Session II: November 4-5, 2009 (Wednesday-Thursday)

Moderator: Michael Stepanovich, wine journalist and judge
Kristin Belair, **Honig Vineyard & Winery**
Tom Hinde, **Flowers Vineyard & Winery**
K.R. Rombauer, III, **Rombauer Vineyards**
Cathy Corison, **Corison Winery**

Session III: November 8-10, 2009 (Sunday-Tuesday)

Moderator: Gilles de Chambure, M.S.; director of wine education, Meadowood
Buck Cobb, **Karly Winery**
David Duncan, **Silver Oak Cellars**
Richard Sanford, **Alma Rosa Winery & Vineyards***
Daniel Baron, **Twomey Cellars**

Session IV: November 11-12, 2009 (Wednesday-Thursday)

Moderator: Gilles de Chambure, M.S.; director of wine education, Meadowood
Mark Lingenfelder, **Chalk Hill Estate Vineyards & Winery**
David Graves, **Saintsbury**
Rick Hutchinson, **Amphora Winery**
Bill Phelps, **Joseph Phelps Vineyards**

Session V: November 15-17, 2009 (Sunday-Tuesday)

Moderator: Dan Berger, syndicated wine journalist and judge
Eileen Crane, **Domaine Carneros**
Kent Rosenblum, **Rosenblum Cellars**
Ross Halleck, **Halleck Vineyard***
Tim Carl, **Huge Bear Wines***

Session VI: November 18-19, 2009 (Wednesday-Thursday)

Moderator: Dan Berger, syndicated wine journalist and judge
Stuart Smith, **Smith Madrone**
Joy Sterling, **Iron Horse Vineyards**
Dan Lee, **Morgan Winery**
Rich Frank, **Frank Family Vineyards**

Session VII: November 29-December 1, 2009 (Sunday-Tuesday)

Moderator: Peter Marks, M.W. and vice president of education, Icon Estates
Steve Reeder, **Simi Winery**
Frederick Schrader and Andy Beckstoffer, **Schrader Cellars & Beckstoffer Vineyards**
Amelia Morán Ceja, **Ceja Vineyards***
Dan Goldfield, **Dutton-Goldfield Winery**

Session VIII: December 2-3, 2009 (Wednesday-Thursday)

Moderator: Peter Marks, M.W. and vice president of education, Icon Estates
Scott Kelly, **Estancia Estates**
Randall Grahm, **Bonny Doon Vineyards**
Mark & Donnis Topel, **Topel Winery***
Joel Peterson, **Ravenswood Winery**

**Indicates new winery this year.*

This exclusive event sells out early and fast every year. Special two- and three-night packages for Vintners' Holidays are available at The Ahwahnee and Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, which includes lodging, two tickets to the Gala Vintners' Dinner and admission to the "Meet the Winemakers" reception. The following rates are based on double occupancy, subject to change, and do not include room taxes. Individual tickets for the Gala Dinner may be purchased for \$199 per person, excluding gratuity.

	<u>Two-night Packages from:</u>	<u>Three-night Packages from:</u>
THE AHWAHNEE	\$996	\$1,295
YOSEMITE LODGE AT THE FALLS	\$596	\$695

For more information on Yosemite Vintners' Holidays at The Ahwahnee or to make reservations, call 801-559-4949 or visit online at www.YosemitePark.com/Vintners.

The Ahwahnee is a full-service, AAA Four-Diamond hotel located in scenic Yosemite Valley, which is home to stunning natural beauty, bountiful activities and historic charm. The Ahwahnee is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and has been accepted as a member of Historic Hotels of America, a program that recognizes hotel properties for preserving and maintaining their historic integrity, architecture and ambiance.

The Ahwahnee and Yosemite Lodge at the Falls are operated by DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DNC), an affiliate of Delaware North Companies and the authorized National Park Service concessioner overseeing lodging, dining, guest recreation activities and transportation services in Yosemite.

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