

For Immediate Release

Windsor Oaks Vineyards Appoints Margaret Davenport As Winemaker

“Best Kept Secret In Sonoma County” Spreads Its Wings

NOTE TO MEDIA: A Word document of this release and media resources are available [here](#). Wine samples and interview opportunities are available by request.

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For more information contact:

John Calmeyer

Windsor Oaks Vineyards

john@windsoroaks.com

707-433-3810

Healdsburg, CA – Windsor Oaks Vineyards, a beautiful, 710 acre estate, uniquely situated in both the Russian River Valley and the Chalk Hill AVAs, is a long-time supplier of ultra-premium grapes to some of California’s best known wineries. Having kept a low profile for many years, the estate is taking steps to increase its distribution and has hired veteran winemaker Margaret Davenport, famed for her work at Clos du Bois Winery as well as her eponymous wines, to head up the winemaking team. Davenport’s first wines from the 2012 vintage, an unoaked Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, are due to be released in March 2013. In the meantime, wines produced by former winemaker Julie Lumgair will be available on a limited basis. The winery’s plan calls for gradually building distribution while keeping production small. The winery will specialize in Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from the estate’s Russian River Valley grapes and Cabernet Sauvignon and other Bordeaux varietals from the vineyard’s Chalk Hill blocks, which extend to nearly 1,000 feet above sea level.

“I bought this property in 1992 and did significant work to expand and upgrade the vineyards,” estate owner Bob Stein said. “The property had been the historic Balverne Cellars, one of the very first ‘cult’ wineries in Sonoma County, where winemakers Doug Nalle and John Kongsgaard started their careers. We began selling fruit to a long list of wineries, including Sonoma Cutrer, Flowers, Pax, Pali, Sojourn...about 35 wineries in all. For the last couple of years, we’ve been making a small amount of wine from what we felt were the best blocks on the property and selling it to our friends, but we’re ready now to start getting our story out to a wider audience. The addition of Margaret Davenport to our team is a significant step in that direction.”

While the winery is currently open to the public only by appointment, it is one of the most unique wine country experiences available. 350 acres of land on the estate were turned over to the Sonoma County Open Space District by Stein. This property, designated “*Forever Wild*”, can never be

developed, but is shared with the public, by appointment, for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Tours of the vineyard take visitors through wild terrain to the summit of the estate, where they enjoy views spanning from Mt. St. Helena to the Pacific Ocean. Guests finish their visit with an intimate sit down tasting in the winery's hospitality salon, enjoying wines produced in lots as small as one barrel.

Up until now, Windsor Oaks has been the best kept secret in Sonoma County wine country. In the months to come, Bob and Renee Stein and their winery team are excited to share the story of their journey.

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About Windsor Oaks Vineyards: Since 1991, Windsor Oaks Estate has been one of the viticultural crown jewels of Sonoma County, encompassing 250 acres of ultra-premium winegrapes which are sustainably grown on a 710+ acre private estate. The vineyard is uniquely situated, extending from the renowned Russian River Valley into the unique volcanic soils and elevations in key mountain vineyard blocks that produce the famous red wines of the Chalk Hill appellation. A supplier of grapes to some of the most prestigious wineries in California, Windsor Oaks also produces award winning, 100% Estate grown, produced and bottled wines in very small lots of one to twelve barrels.