

Delectus Winery Announces Purchase of Hillside Knights Valley Property

Future Home of Estate Vineyard and Winery Facility

Calistoga, CA — March 28, 2005—Delectus Winery, a Napa Valley specialist in red wines, announced the purchase of a 112-acre property located on Ida Clayton Road north of Calistoga, California. Adjacent to Peter Michael Winery's prestigious Les Pavots vineyard, the site is the future home of Delectus Winery and its estate vineyards. (www.delectuswinery.com)

Delectus will plant 42 acres of the property to all five red Bordeaux varietals and Petite Sirah. Planting is expected to begin in late spring 2005. The slopes are south facing, and range in altitude from 1,400 to 2,100 feet. Soils vary greatly within this property and are accommodating to the six varieties. Proposed cave excavation and winery facility construction to house a production of 7,000 cases should begin late 2006, pending County approval.

The land possesses all the qualities winemaker and owner Gerhard Reisacher wants to build upon his existing reputation in Napa Valley. "We have scouted mountainous properties in the area for several years, and have found one that could not only secure our grape sources, but potentially even exceed the quality of our current wines," said Gerhard.

The area's growing conditions are typical for mountain sites. Daytime high temperatures are up to ten degrees lower compared with the valley floor, but inversion layers keep overnight temperatures higher. These more moderate swings are aided by the fact that the property sits above the fog line and subsequently receives more sunshine hours. The longer growing season will result in later harvests, not starting before October, and allows for full physiological maturity of the fruit. The wines should be concentrated and balanced, which is synonymous with the Delectus style and reputation that Gerhard and his wife Linda have built over the past decade.

Overlooking Knights Valley, the site borders Mount St. Helena and possesses expansive views. The natural diverse terrain of forest, meadows, streams and waterfalls will be largely maintained during the development of the estate vineyard. "It is important to us to retain the natural beauty of this incredible property for the community and our family," said Linda. "The site has historical significance that we want to honor."

In the mid -1860's, Ida Clayton Road was used as a route to Lake County's mercury mines, which was a critical element for separating gold from the ore during California's gold rush. This property was also the sanctuary for Robert Louis Stevenson, beloved author and California's favorite adopted son. He spent many weeks sitting outside writing poetry while taking in the breathtaking views.

About DELECTUS

Delectus Winery was founded in 1995 by Gerhard and Linda Reisacher. An eighth generation winemaker from Austria, Gerhard packed his belongings and set out to realize his winemaking dreams in California. His initial accomplishments from working at four highly regarded local wineries were superseded in 1992 when the first Delectus

Cabernet was created. Soon thereafter, Gerhard and Linda opened the doors of Delectus Winery, which now produces 4,500 cases of Napa Valley vineyard-designated red wines, from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah, and Petite Sirah. The winery prides itself on producing expressive red wines that are big and bold without being overpowering. Each wine expresses a sense of place or *terroir* from carefully selected single-vineyard sources. www.delectuswinery.com.

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