

## **HOWELL MOUNTAIN VINTNERS & GROWERS' ASSOCIATION FORMED**

*Angwin, CA* – Twenty-five wineries, winemakers and grape growers came together recently to create the Howell Mountain Vintners & Growers Association (HMVGA), formally recognizing the first sub-appellation of the Napa Valley, which was created twenty years ago. Planted predominantly to Bordeaux grape varieties, the Howell Mountain American Viticultural Area (AVA) is known for its high elevation vineyards that critics say create some of the most distinctive wines in the Napa Valley. Heading the HMVGA as President, will be Pat Stotesbery, proprietor of Ladera Vineyards.

Stotesbery stated that, “The mission of the HMVGA is to advance the public image of Howell Mountain as a place of mystery and beauty and the home of limited production, hand crafted wines-with the added intensity, boldness and elegance provided only by vineyards thriving above 1,400 feet.” The association plans to reach out to both trade and consumers with programs, tastings, events and educational materials to help satisfy the thirst for knowledge of this “*off the beaten path*” part of Napa. The group is formalizing its plans for 2005, which will include developing a logo, press kit as well as a program calendar among other outreach activities.

Founded in 1984, the Howell Mountain American Viticultural Area (AVA) was the first sub-appellation of the Napa Valley to be established. Consisting of 14, 000 acres at elevations starting at 1,400 feet, Howell Mountain benefits from the influence of the Pacific breezes which invert the typical Napa Valley diurnal range, causing cooler days and warmer nights for the fruit development due to less heat stress and a longer growing season. The area is also populated by Redwood forests, Douglas firs and Ponderosa pines making it a beautifully balanced landscape with stunning views of the Napa Valley.

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For contact information, please reach Pat Stotesbery at Ladera Vineyards, at 1-866-523-3728 or 1-707-965-2445.

The HMVGA membership currently consists of:

Beatty Ranch Beringer Blass Wine Estates Black Sears Vineyard Arthur Boulard Cakebread Cellars Clark-Claudon Vineyards D-Cubed Cellars Diogenes Ridge Duckhorn Wine Company	Dunn Vineyards Howell at the Moon Winery Howell Mountain Vineyards Hughes Vineyard Ladera Vineyards Lail Vineyards La Jota Vineyard Co Marc & Janice Mondavi Neal Family Vineyards	O'Shaughnessy Estate Outpost Wines Piña Cellars Piña Vineyard Management Polaris Vineyard Robert Craig Winery Spence Vineyards
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