

Contact: Kimberly Charles
Charles Communications Associates
415/701-9463
Joy Henderson
Peter Michael Winery
707/942-4459

Peter Michael Winery releases new Single Vineyard Estate Chardonnay

MA BELLE-FILLE

Knights Valley, CA – Sir Peter and Lady Michael, proprietors of the family’s winery in Knights Valley, California, recently announced the debut of the winery’s newest limited-production, single vineyard Chardonnay, *Ma Belle-Fille*, named after his daughter-in-law, Emily. *Ma Belle-Fille* translated from French means “daughter in law” and is reflective of a family philosophy of legacy. Sir Peter has committed to a 100 by 100 strategy for the family, that is 100% ownership for at least 100 years.

The *Ma Belle-Fille* vineyard is planted at the highest elevation on the property (1,900 to 2,000 feet), benefiting from the cooler marine layer that funnels through the gap in the mountains. Twenty years of viticultural experience and vinification knowledge are expressed in this wine, from a vineyard parcel twenty-two acres in size, planted with twelve separate blocks, comparable to the *climats* of Burgundy says winemaker Luc Morlet. Some of the very best and rarest clones of Chardonnay were selected in planting this vineyard including: Hyde, Hudson and Mt. Eden, all related to the Old Wente clone. Tiny clusters and small berries yield what Morlet calls “*nectar de miel*” (honey nectar). Crop yields from this low vigor, mountainous site are a meager 1.5 to 2 tons per acre.

The quality of *Ma Belle-Fille* 2002 began in the vineyard with painstaking nurturing of the vines followed by a winemaking effort which includes meticulous hand sorting of the fruit, natural fermentation with indigenous yeasts, French oak barrel aging and lees stirring, all hallmarks of the Peter Michael style. Due to its limited production the wine is available only to those on the winery mailing list and to select fine wine shops at a retail price of \$75. It can also be found in restaurants in the US and the UK.

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