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Sonoma Valley Winery Gingerbread Contest Rings in "Holidays in Sonoma Valley" Celebration

Sonoma, CA – December 3, 2014 -- Sonoma Valley's Vintners & Growers Alliance (SVVGA) has announced the contestants in its annual Sonoma Valley Winery Gingerbread Contest where member wineries engage in a friendly competition to create the most magnificent gingerbread masterpiece. For 2014, wineries were asked to draw inspiration from Sonoma Valley's heritage-driven moniker "In Sonoma Valley The Roots Run Deep" with a Holiday Twist! This unique event is one of several celebrated elements featured in "Holidays in Sonoma Valley", a calendar of local festivities including Open Houses, Winemaker Dinners, Santa visitations, Toy Drives, and musical performances. For the complete list of holiday activities, visit the Events Calendar at <u>www.SonomaValleyWine.com</u>.

Beginning November 28th and continuing through December 31, 2014, each winery will display these decadently clever creations in their respective tasting rooms. Visitors can pick up a map of all participating wineries at any location, and are invited to vote for their favorites either via the on-site paper ballots or online on the Sonoma Valley Wine Facebook page. As an added bonus, each time voters cast a ballot either in person or online; they'll be entered to win a case of hand-selected Sonoma Valley wines.

With 10 participating wineries, holiday cheer will be spread throughout Sonoma Valley. The 2014 contestants include:

- **B.R. Cohn Winery**: <u>B.R. Cohn Winery's</u> historic Picholine olive grove, old vine vineyard & rock and roll roots, are all highlighted in their 2014 gingerbread "tree" house.
- **BRYTER Estates:** <u>BRYTER Estates</u>' gingerbread entry depicts a quaint Sonoma cottage resting peacefully near their Pinot Noir vineyards. Two linked wedding rings on the front of the cottage are symbolic of the marriage of the owners, Bryan and Terin (BRYTER).
- **Chateau St. Jean**: <u>Chateau St. Jean</u>'s gingerbread house features their iconic winery, built in 1973 and inspired by the formal estate gardens of the south of France.
- **Deerfield Ranch Winery**: Defending champion <u>Deerfield Ranch Winery</u>'s 2014 entry features the existing cave and crushpad, complete with the "Barn", fermentation tanks and barrels. Their deep Sonoma roots are depicted by the gingerbread winegrowers many of whom they have partnered with for over 38 years.
- GlenLyon Vineyards and Winery and Two Amigos Wines: <u>GlenLyon Vineyards and Winery</u> and <u>Two Amigos</u> <u>Wines</u> have partnered to create a grand gingerbread replica of their Estate Property and Winery that has been producing fine wine for nearly 30 years.
- **Highway 12 Vineyards and Winery:** <u>Highway 12 Vineyards and Winery</u> have titled their 2014 effort 'The Ride' which takes you on a tour of iconic landmarks situated on the historic Sonoma Plaza that the winery calls home.
- Larson Family Winery: Larson Family Winery's gingerbread entry is inspired by the deep heritage and history behind its property on Millerick road, which dates back to the 19th century.
- **Meadowcroft Wines:** <u>Meadowcroft Wines</u> 's highly creative entry draws inspiration from their hallmark Honey Bee with a gingerbread beehive encapsulating a solitary grapevine. A tribute to the organically grown, sustainably farmed, Sonoma vineyards they have produced wine from for more than 10 years.
- **Muscardini Cellars**: <u>Muscardini Cellars</u> celebrates the historic Kenwood School house that is now home to its tasting room, by replicating the 1800's era building in a fanciful gingerbread creation.
- **VJB Cellars:** In a creative twist to the traditional gingerbread executions, <u>VJB Cellars</u> celebrates their Italian roots by recreating their charming tasting room and Piazza out of pasta sheets baked on the premises.

For those winery guests that want to spend a day touring the Gingerbread creations, Pure Luxury Transportation is offering special preferred pricing. Call 800-626-5466 and mention "Sonoma Valley Winery Gingerbread Contest" to receive the special program pricing.

Additional Holidays in Sonoma Valley events are being added daily. For more information visit the Event Calendar at www.SonomaValleyWine.com. Photos available upon request. ###