

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Alexander Valley's Lancaster Estate**  
**Offers Complete Vineyard Experience for California Wine Country Visitors**

*By-Appointment-Only Tour and Tasting Program Takes Visitors  
Inside the Winery for Up-Close Look at Winemaking*

*Elegant Salon Provides Relaxing Contrast to Busy Wine Tasting Rooms*

HEALDSBURG, California (January 13, 2003) – Lancaster Estate, a 53-acre hillside vineyard located in the southeast corner of Northern California's Alexander Valley, is now scheduling winery tour and tasting appointments for 2003. Unlike most winery tour and tasting programs, the one-and-a-half-hour Lancaster Estate experience is designed to give wine country visitors the opportunity to learn and understand the total vineyard operation, from grape growing and harvesting to production and marketing. Earlier this year, the winery opened its elegant salon-style tasting room to provide an intimate, relaxed setting for small group tastings of its award-winning, luxury Bordeaux-style wines.

According to Lancaster Estate General Manager David Green, the Lancaster Estate tour and tasting program offers more than just a quick stop off the highway. "We want our guests to take full advantage of their visit to the wine country with a personalized, informative tour that celebrates the art of quality winemaking," said Green. "If you're a true wine enthusiast, there's no better way to learn more about the wines you enjoy."

The Lancaster Estate tour begins with an SUV ride around the perimeter of the estate and then to the vineyard's highest elevation for a bird's eye view of the entire property. Next is a stop at the winery's state-of-the-art production facility, where visitors learn about the fermentation and bottling processes. After a look inside the winery's 9,000-square-foot aging cave, visitors are taken to the winery's well-appointed tasting room, which features a large window with views of the vineyard, custom-made metal work, wooden cabinets, couches and living room-style décor. (Due to the intimate layout of the room, deliberately created to provide an alternative to crowded, large winery tasting rooms, single group tastings are limited to 12.)

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The *Robb Report* recently recommended the 1999 Lancaster as an excellent “investment” wine, and *Bon Appetit* ranked the 1999 Lancaster among its top 50 wines for 2002, suggesting the wine as a good choice “to impress your wine-geek friends.” Robert M. Parker, Jr.’s *The Wine Advocate* called the 1999 Lancaster “sexy” and “delicious,” while the *Wine Spectator* praised the winery’s release of its single vintage 1999 Nicole’s Vineyard, giving the wine an impressive 91 rating for its “wonderful balance, focus and length.”

Lancaster Estate wines are completely handcrafted to be estate wines of the “domaine” model: grown on the winery’s site, made in the winery’s cellar, aged in the winery’s caves and bottled at the winery. Aged for at least 22 months in small French Chateau barrels, 75% of which are new, Lancaster Estate wines feature a blend of Cabernet-family varietals -- Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Lancaster Estate offers the 1999 Lancaster for \$75 per bottle and the limited edition 1999 Nicole’s Vineyard for \$100.

Lancaster Estate is located less than a mile from the Russian River at the convergence of the Knights Valley and Chalk Hill appellations, a setting which provides for intense sunshine and uninterrupted warm summer days complemented by cool evenings to encourage rich and lush flavors. An abundant supply of tourist accommodations, restaurants and shopping is located nearby. Address: 15001 Chalk Hill Road, Healdsburg, California 95448. Telephone: (707) 433-8178. The winery is open by appointment daily except Sunday for tours, tasting and retail sales.

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