

## **CLIFF LEDE VINEYARDS HIRES PHILIPPE MELKA AS CONSULTING WINEMAKER**

(Yountville, Calif.—February 17, 2010)—Cliff Lede Vineyards today announced that Philippe Melka has joined their team as Consulting Winemaker, replacing Michelle Edwards, who resigned in January to focus on her family full time. Melka joins the winery effective March 1 and will be working on the 2009 blend; his first full vintage will be 2010.

“My first love was Bordeaux, so bringing Philippe Melka on board brings me full circle in my pursuit of creating a world class winery. Vineyard Manager David Abreu has replanted nearly all of our vineyards, which, coupled with Philippe’s winemaking prowess will take us to the next level—it’s really Cliff Lede 2.0,” commented Proprietor Cliff Lede.

Melka is recognized as one of the wine industry’s leading winemakers: Robert Parker named him one of the world’s nine most important winemakers, while *Food & Wine* declared him “winemaker of the year” in 2005. Melka has worked for some of the most prestigious wineries in the world: Château Haut Brion and Château Petrus in Bordeaux and Dominus Estate in Napa. For the past 15 years, Melka has consulted for some of Napa’s top properties, including Vineyard 29, Hundred Acre, Bryant Family, Dana Estates and Gemstone Vineyard.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to work with Cliff Lede, which world class vineyard sites located in one of my favorite appellations, Stags Leap District, at a state-of-the-art winery and with an amazing team” said Melka.

Additionally Assistant Winemaker Kale Anderson has been promoted to Associate Winemaker and will have greater operational responsibility.

### **ABOUT CLIFF LEDE VINEYARDS**

The winery was established in 2002, when Canadian businessman Cliff Lede purchased 60 acres of vineyards in the famed Stags Leap District. In the following years, Lede formed an unrivaled team to make the most of this remarkable property. First onboard was noted viticulturist David Abreu, known for his work with Screaming Eagle, Harlan, Araujo and Bryant. Michelle Edwards, who had fashioned the previous three vintages at Colgin, was then hired as Winemaker November 2004, a position she held until January 2010. Consultant Michel Rolland, recognized for his contributions to such famed estates as Ornellaia, Harlan and Château Le Bon Pasteur, was retained in 2005. Finally, famed winemaker Philippe Melka joined Cliff Lede Vineyards as Consulting Winemaker in March 2010.

Completed in time for crush 2005, the state-of-the-art gravity-flow winery boasts a berry-by-berry sorting system and conical tanks commissioned using a design borrowed from Château Latour. One tank per vineyard block ensures each lot evolves at its own pace and acres of caves with single-layer barrel storage ensure access to each barrel at all times. No corner has been cut.

The winery produces Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon. The flagship, Poetry Cabernet Sauvignon, is crafted from the steep hillside portion of the estate. The land, the talent, the tools and the passion: Cliff Lede Vineyards, a notable addition to the Stags Leap District.

The winery is located at 1473 Yountville Cross Road near the Silverado Trail and is open to the public daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tastings are \$20 - \$50 per person. Tours are available by prior appointment only. For additional information, please visit [cliffledevineyards.com](http://cliffledevineyards.com) or call 707.944.8642.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
C. MILAN COMMUNICATIONS AT 415-392-6600.**