

WILLOWS LODGE TO HOST WASHINGTON WOMEN WINEMAKERS DURING EVENT SERIES IN FIRESIDE CELLARS

*Complimentary wine tastings in celebration of Washington Wine Month offered every
Thursday in March*

Woodinville, Wash. (February 23, 2009) – Willows Lodge, a Northwest retreat in the heart of Woodinville Wine Country, announces the addition of Thursday night wine tastings with Washington women winemakers to its winter programming schedule in **Fireside Cellars**, one of the Eastside's premier gathering places for Happier Hour.

The Washington Women Winemaker tastings are complimentary and will occur every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 in March, as follows:

- Mar. 5 – Evening with the Winemaker: Hillary Sjolund of **DiSTEFANO Winery**. Born in Manchester, in Northern California's renowned Mendocino Coast, Sjolund is responsible for quality control from the vineyard to the bottle at DiSTEFANO Winery. Sjolund says that the quality of a wine starts in the vineyards and it is the winemaker's job is to ensure that the wines reflect the grape variety, remaining true to the vineyard where they're grown.
www.distefanowinery.com
- Mar. 12 – Evening with the Winemaker: Lisa Baer of **Baer Winery**. Baer Winery is a family-owned and operated enterprise dedicated to producing the finest blends of exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot.
www.baerwinery.com
- Mar. 19 – Evening with the Winemaker: Wendy Stuckey of **Chateau Ste. Michelle**. Considered one of Australia's best white winemakers, Stuckey joined Chateau Ste. Michelle in 2007 as the white winemaker. Known for her ability to make white wines reflective of their origins and true to their variety, Stuckey's accolades as a winemaker include "winemaker of the year" by *Australian Gourmet Traveler WINE magazine*. Chateau Ste. Michelle is the oldest winery in Washington state with some of the most mature vineyards in the Columbia Valley.
www.ste-michelle.com
- Mar. 26 – Evening with the Winemaker: Stacy Lill of **O Wines**. Founded in 2006 by Stacy Lill and Kathy Johanson, O Wines is a female owned and operated wine company. Established to support a cause, a portion of O Wines' proceeds funds scholarships for underprivileged and at risk young girls in Washington State.
<http://owines.com/>

The winter programming schedule in Fireside Cellars schedule also features live music, cooking classes with Barking Frog's own Chef Bobby Moore and exclusive wine tastings with region's top winemakers on Wednesday evenings. Highlights include: "Best Places to Kiss Cookbook" book signing with author Carol Frieberg on Feb. 27, Evening with the Winemaker: Bunnell Family Cellar on Mar. 6 and Cooking with Chef Bobby Moore: *The Art of Cooking Fish* on Mar. 25. To view a complete

programming schedule in Fireside Cellars at Willows Lodge, please visit www.willowslodge.com or call 425-424-3900.

About Willows Lodge

Willows Lodge, a Northwest style lodge located in Woodinville Wine Country just outside of Seattle, features 84 luxury guestrooms, a full-service spa and high-tech equipped meeting space. Executive Chef Bobby Moore's American regional cuisine at Barking Frog reflects the seasonal and organic produce found in Puget Sound, and is artfully paired with an extensive list of Washington wines. Willows Lodge also boasts Fireside Cellars, offering a casual and sophisticated atmosphere tucked away in the lobby with an outdoor patio overlooking the expansive surrounding landscape. www.willowslodge.com.

Woodinville-based, Willows Lodge, is managed by MTM Luxury Lodging, operating the Northwest's premier collection of boutique hotels. Among its other exquisite properties in the Northwest are Cave B Inn at SageCliffe (Quincy); Hotel 1000 (downtown Seattle); Willows Lodge (Woodinville); and Woodmark Hotel, Yacht Club & Spa (Kirkland). Other MTM luxury properties from coast to coast include The Liberty Hotel (Boston) and Bardessono (Napa Valley). Without exception, MTM managed hotels are among the very best in the markets they serve. www.mtmluxurylodging.com

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