

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREAT WINE CAPITALS GLOBAL NETWORK ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL BEST OF WINE TOURISM WINNERS

(Bordeaux, November 8, 2010) - On 4 November 2010, nine properties and wine tourism operators were awarded a prestigious international Best Of Wine Tourism prize by the Great Wine Capitals Global Network in Christchurch, New Zealand.

At a memorable gala dinner that took place at the AMI Stadium in Christchurch, international recognitions were announced among 59 nominees, all locally awarded Best Of winners. The nine participating cities and wine regions of GWC gathered a total of 317 applications, with 80% of entries coming from new participants this year.

The 2011 winners are:

- **Wine Oil Spa Hotel Villa de Laguardia**, set in the vineyards in a medieval town in the heart of the Rioja (Wine Tourism Services)
- Cru Bourgeois Superieur in the Haut Medoc, **Château Paloumey** that regularly exhibits paintings and sculptures (Art & Culture);
- **Steenberg**, one of the competition's top-line international winners, winning two categories in South Africa, and awarded Wine Tourism Services on the global scale;
- **Yealands Estate** in the South Island's Marlborough region, New Zealand's largest carbon-neutral certified winery that made international headlines for using miniature sheep to keep the vineyard's grass and weeds in check (Sustainable Wine Tourism category);
- **Villa Vignamaggio**, one of the oldest wine estates in the heart of Chianti Classico between Florence and Siena, dating back to 15th century Renaissance times (Architecture, Parks and Gardens);
- **The Hyatt Regency Mainz** on the banks of the Rhine in Mainz that integrates a 19th century building with 21st century architecture (Accommodation);
- **Bodega Diam Andes**, a member of the high-profile Clos de los Siete partnership of wineries in Mendoza, whose driving force is French winemaker Michel Rolland (Architecture, Parks and Gardens);
- **Conn Creek Winery** on the scenic Silverado Trail in Napa Valley that promotes the region's Cabernet wines (Innovative Wine Tourism Experience);
- Porto's **Quinta Aveleda**, a 300-year-old family-owned estate and one of Portugal's leading producers (Architecture, Parks & Gardens).

The nine will all carry the title as their countries' Best of Wine Tourism winners for 2011; all information and websites available on www.greatwinecapitals.com

About the Great Wine Capitals Global Network

The Great Wine Capitals (GWC) is a network of nine major global cities in both the northern and southern hemispheres which share a key economic and cultural asset: their internationally renowned wine regions. It exists to encourage travel, education and business exchanges between the internationally renowned cities of Bilbao/Rioja, Bordeaux, Cape Town, Christchurch/South Island, Florence, Mainz/Rheinessen, Mendoza, Porto and San Francisco/Napa Valley.

For further information about the Great Wine Capitals Global Network, follow this link: <http://www.greatwinecapitals.com>