



For Immediate Release:

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### **FREEMAN VINEYARD & WINERY DONATES 22 ACRES OF REDWOODS TO BODEGA LAND TRUST**

SEBASTOPOL, CALIF. – January 28, 2009– In conjunction with the planting of its new Freeman Ranch vineyard in Occidental, California, Freeman Vineyard & Winery is proud to announce the donation of 22 acres of old growth and second growth redwood forests to the Bodega Land Trust.

Freeman founders, Ken and Akiko Freeman, acquired the Occidental property in 2007. Located 5 miles from Freeman’s winery and estate vineyard in Sebastopol, the new 50-acre Occidental vineyard, which will be named Freeman Ranch, encompasses redwood forests, sheep pastures and apple orchards. In the spring of 2009, Freeman will begin planting approximately 11 acres of the orchard and pastureland to five clones of Pinot Noir, and a small amount of Chardonnay. In keeping with Freeman’s commitment to the environment, the 22 acres of redwood forests will be preserved in their pristine state through the stewardship of the Bodega Land Trust, and the vineyard will be farmed 100 percent organically (and will immediately begin the three-year process required for organic certification).

“This is something we are very proud of,” says Ken Freeman. “Even though we are a small, family-owned winery, we wanted to show that you don’t have to be big to help save our environment, or to give back to the community. This is a remarkable piece of land, and as excited as we are to be growing Pinot Noir here, we are just as excited to be preserving the diversity of this special place.” As a condition of the donation, the preserved 22 acres will never be harvested, and will remain forever wild.

The Occidental property is located at approximately 1,200 feet and features steep slopes, Goldridge soil and a southeastern exposure—all ideal for producing exceptional Pinot Noir. “Freeman Ranch will allow us even more control over our fruit sources,” says founder and assistant winemaker Akiko Freeman. “With its high elevation and close proximity to the coast, this areas is perfect for cool-climate viticulture. By 2012, we expect that 50 percent of our fruit will come from our estate vineyards—which will be a wonderful complement to the fruit we already source from our world-class partner growers.”

**About Freeman Winery:**

Founded by Ken and Akiko Freeman, Freeman Vineyard & Winery is dedicated to crafting elegant cool-climate California Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in a sophisticated Burgundian style. Believing in the vast potential of the Sonoma Coast and Russian River Valley appellations to produce wines of complexity and refinement, the Freemans work with a small portfolio of acclaimed partner vineyards including Keefer and Heintz ranches. In addition, the Freemans have planted seven acres of hillside vineyard at their picturesque winery in Sebastopol. These sites share many common elements that define excellence in cool-climate viticulture, including hillside locations with coastal fog, Goldridge soils, proper clonal selection and stressed vines producing extremely low yields of nuanced fruit.

**About the Bodega Land Trust:**

The Bodega Land Trust offers individuals the opportunity to preserve and restore agricultural lands, forests, streams, wilderness, natural habitats and resources in perpetuity through acceptance or purchase of land or conservation easements. A conservation easement is a legal agreement a landowner makes to limit the nature of future development. Each easement is uniquely tailored to reflect a landowner's desired land use. For additional information, please visit <http://www.bodeganet.com/landtrust/>

For more information on the winery, its wine and its owners, and to purchase wine, please visit [www.freemanwinery.com](http://www.freemanwinery.com) or contact Amelia Weir of SW/PR at 415 381 8201 or [ameliasw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ameliasw@sbcglobal.net). Photos are available upon request.

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