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**FREEMAN VINEYARD & WINERY EMERGES AS BRIGHT NEW STAR
FROM ACCLAIMED RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY APPELLATION
Family-Owned Winery's First Vintage Debuts, Picks Up Int'l. Medal**

Sebastopol, CA – June 20, 2004 – Among a new generation of family-owned winemaking operations in the burgeoning Russian River Valley appellation, Freeman Vineyard & Winery has debuted as one of the region's most exciting new stars with the release of its first vintage, a Burgundian-style Pinot Noir. A mere month after release of its first 600 case vintage, Freeman's Pinot was already attracting critical acclaim with an international medal for its Akiko's Cuvee blend from the prestigious Starwine competition, presided over by a panel of 60 international sommelier judges.

Handcrafted by Ed Kurtzman, an award-winning winemaker who gathered praise for his Pinots with stints at Testarossa and Chalone wineries, Freeman Vineyard & Winery is a dream realized for owners Ken and Akiko Freeman, who purchased the former Pommeroy winery, located in Sebastopol, in 2001. "Since we met in college, we've always cultivated a passion for great food and great wine," says Ken Freeman. "We traveled the world to learn what it takes to make a wine we'd be proud to serve our family and friends. We're so gratified that everyone seems to like our wine as much as

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Freeman Vineyard & Winery...Page 2 of 2

we do, and we're incredibly excited to count as neighbors some world-class Pinot producers.”

After purchasing the winery, the Freemans undertook extensive renovations to the rustic property, including an upgrade of the old barn that once housed one of legendary Pinot producer Williams-Selyem's first vintages, and construction of a 6,000 square-foot wine cave. The expansive new cave, which will provide an ideal aging climate for Freeman's eventual 6,000 case production, is one of few in Sonoma and took more than 18 months to build.

Since its debut in February, Freeman's Pinots have been embraced by some of the country's top restaurants, from Jardiniere, Bacar and Fifth Floor in San Francisco to Montrachet in New York and Olives in Boston, Aspen and Tokyo. Akiko Freeman, a Tokyo native who met husband Ken while attending college in the U.S. in the 1980's, says the interest for their wines in Japan – a huge and growing market for California wines – has been especially gratifying. “Japan's leading wine retailer, Enoteca, wanted our entire first vintage after tasting it,” says Freeman. “He said it was the best Pinot he's tasted, which was wonderful because he had initially mentioned that he doubted a good Pinot could be made in the U.S. This has been quite an experience, but the best part is that the wine turned out as I had hoped.”

Freeman's 2002 vintage – 600 cases of Sonoma Coast and Akiko's Cuvee Pinot Noir – is sold out, but more information and mail order sign-up for future vintages is available at www.freemanwinery.com.

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