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For Immediate Release:

MORGAN MORGAN WINERY WRAPPING UP HARVEST 2009

Near Normal Yields and Good Quality Characterize the 2009 Harvest

Monterey County, CA - Morgan Winery is closing in on the finish of the 2009 harvest in the Santa Lucia Highlands. Dan Morgan Lee, proprietor and winegrower, has been harvesting and making highly acclaimed wines from Santa Lucia Highlands and Monterey vineyards for 27 years.

The 2009 growing season started slow. Cool, wet weather in the latter part of spring left the grapes about 5 – 10 days behind the traditional schedule at mid-summer. August was more temperate; there was less fog than is typical and a warm spell allowed the fruit to catch up in sugar development, not necessarily flavor. “The winemaker that looks to the flavors and not the sugar levels will be rewarded this harvest – patience is key,” explains Dan.

September weather was more of the same, however October brought the “Fall effect.” Nights can get very cool and the days heat up to moderately warm temperatures for a very short time. This effect allows the flavors in the grape to catch up with the sugar, giving well-balanced fruit. Lee is excited about the quality of the grapes that have been harvested from Morgan’s certified organic Double L Vineyard. “The fruit is very focused; the harvest was clean and quality looks good.”

In comparison to 2008, the tonnage will be slightly higher in 2009. The Pinot Noir crop is about 20% off from a “normal” year. September was the busiest month of harvest; traditionally the majority of Harvest takes place in October. Additionally, the separation between varieties in ripening was less this year, Chardonnay has been harvested right along with the Pinot Noir when usually it is a week or two later.

Now in its 27th year, Morgan Winery is a family owned and operated business. Winegrower Dan Lee and winemaker Gianni Abate collaborate to craft wines which elegantly express the *terroir* from Morgan's organically grown Double L Vineyard and select vineyards in the Santa Lucia Highlands and northern Monterey appellations.

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