



Napa Valley's Collectible Wine Comes of Age

Napa, CA June 1, 2007 – Wine collectors and connoisseurs alike have much to celebrate with the release of the 21st vintage of Marilyn Merlot. As always, the wine arrives on the market on Marilyn Monroe's birth date – June 1st – and the 2005 vintage will prove to be memorable, not only because it marks a "coming of age" for the Napa Valley icon, but also because it exemplifies the outstanding qualities of the 2005 vintage.

For more than two decades, the annual release of Marilyn Merlot has been an event much anticipated by its legion of fans. "Every vintage sells out in just a few months," notes Bob Holder, one of the owners of Marilyn Wines. "A new 'celebrity' wine seems to pop up every day," he noted, "but there is only one Marilyn and we've enjoyed twenty-one years of growing demand for this special wine."

What is in the bottle of the 2005 Marilyn Merlot fully does justice to the wine's alluring label. The 2005 vintage is a blend of 88% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Sauvignon. "We prefer the added flavors and structure that Cabernet gives to the predominately Merlot-based wine," says winemaker John McKay. "The addition of 30% new oak barrels for this vintage gives the aromas of toasted oak and a more complex mouthfeel from the new oak tannins, while the fruit flavors are soft and mature." Vineyards for this wine are located in Yountville, Oakville, and Rutherford, in the heart of Napa Valley.

The 2005 vintage of Marilyn Merlot will be in wide national distribution at a suggested retail price of \$27.00 and is also available on the MarilynWines.com site and at the Cellar Door tasting room of the Napa Wine Company. The wine can also be ordered by calling (707) 963-5475, or – toll free – (866) MMWINES.

Other Marilyn wines currently available are Marilyn Cabernet 2002 (\$38.00), Norma Jeane – A Young Merlot 2006 (\$10.50), and Marilyn Velvet Collection 2004 (\$200 for a 1.5 liter bottle in a red presentation box).

Contact for wine media:

John Gillespie

(707) 967-9299

jqillespie@winecolleagues.com