

# Calistoga Vineyards

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Napa, California 94515

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **INTRODUCING CALISTOGA ESTATE WINES**

*--Twenty-eight Washington wine lovers help craft wine from Napa vines --  
--Marvin Stirman, noted local wine wholesaler, retailer and distributor heads group --  
--Former White House Chef Walter Scheib to act as culinary consultant --*

*Washington, DC...* There's a new wine in town, and it traveled 3000 miles to come home.

Calistoga Estate Wine is the creation of twenty-eight Washington-area wine professionals and aficionados whose dream it has been to own a vineyard in the country's greatest wine region and to take part in creating a daily dining and celebration wine at an affordable price. Now, in its first release, are Calistoga Estate Chardonnay, Calistoga Estate Merlot and Calistoga Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. Distributed by Wine Partners LLC in Washington, Wines, Ltd LLC in Maryland and through Virginia Imports in Virginia, the wines are available at area wine shops and at selected restaurants.

Walter Scheib, former White House chef and founder of [www.theamericanchef.com](http://www.theamericanchef.com), will work with Calistoga Estate, making special appearances on behalf of the collection, offering wine and food pairings and contributing recipes.

The Calistoga Estate story is every wine buff's dream come true. Marvin Stirman, a "founding father" of the wine business in Washington, spent 53 years as a wholesaler, retailer and founder of Wines, Ltd., the distributorship. As part of the founding family of Calvert Liquors, Stirman recognized the burgeoning interest in wines in Washington in the '50s and became one of the first retailers to decide to import wines from all over the world. To demystify the wines and educate his clientele, he hired a Frenchman who acted as an in house "sommelier" at the shop. At the same time, he created a nationwide wine club, Les Amis du Vin, as a way to get people to taste and learn about wine. There was only one aspect of the business Stirman hadn't had his hand in – the creation of a wine.

Twenty-eight local wine lovers soon joined Stirman in buying an estate in juice-rich Napa Valley. Stirman found the perfect property in picture-perfect Calistoga, on which he plans to plant 1000 vines. Until then, he has contracted with Adler Fels Winery, headed by noted winemaker Harry Parducci, to produce Calistoga Estate Wine. Says Stirman, "You know, with my reputation and my 53 years in the business, I wouldn't even think of putting any wine in a bottle I didn't have perfect confidence in...let me say I am very pleased with this first release."

The first release has been lauded by Washington Post wine critic Ben Giliberti. "The supple merlot is quite Saint-Emilion-like, with red berry-nuanced fruit and a soft finish... the more structured cabernet sauvignon is marked with complex cassis and cedary notes..."

Next to be released, in October 2006, is a Sauvignon Blanc, which Stirman believes is "just splendid." A Pinot Noir will be released in 2007. For more information, contact Marvin Stirman at (301) 928-9520 or email: [marvinstirman@aol.com](mailto:marvinstirman@aol.com).

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