

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



# FRANK FAMILY VINEYARDS

**FOR:**  
**Frank Family Vineyards**  
1091 Larkmead Lane  
Calistoga, Calif. 94515  
707.942.0859  
[www.frankfamilyvineyards.com](http://www.frankfamilyvineyards.com)

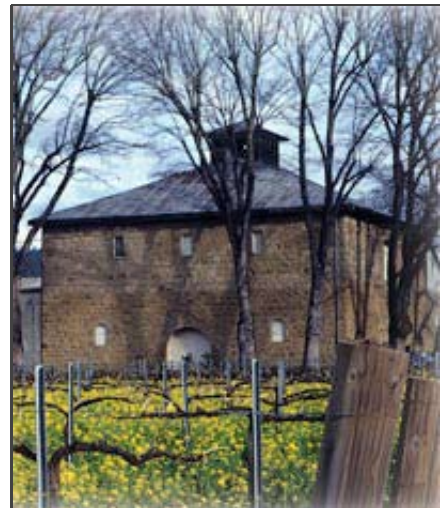
**FROM:**  
**Jarvis Communications**  
Katherine Jarvis  
310.313.6374  
[katherine@jarviscommunications.com](mailto:katherine@jarviscommunications.com)  
[www.jarviscommunications.com](http://www.jarviscommunications.com)

## **RICH AND CONNIE FRANK HAVE ASSUMED TOTAL CONTROL OF CALISTOGA-BASED FRANK FAMILY VINEYARDS**

(Calistoga, CA; January 3, 2007)—Today, Rich and Connie Frank of Frank Family Vineyards announced their family's purchase of wine producer Koerner Rombauer's partnership share in Frank Family Vineyards for an undisclosed amount.

Although this marks the end of a formal business partnership, Rich Frank says, "Working with Koerner to start Frank Family Vineyards was an amazing experience. As a friend and a partner, what I have learned from Koerner about the wine business has been invaluable and I will always be grateful for the knowledge he shared."

Rich Frank, former President of Disney Studios and Chairman of LA-based talent management company The Firm, along with Connie Frank and sons Darryl and Paul Frank will take on a more active role in the day to day operations of the winery working closely with Winemaker Todd Graff. About the purchase, Rombauer says, "this is a great time for the Franks to have sole proprietorship. The winery is on a real growth path and Rich now has the opportunity to dedicate more time and attention to the winery in which he is so passionate."



Frank Family's historic winery.

Frank and Rombauer met in the late 1980s when Rich and Connie Frank purchased a home in Rutherford. The two soon became fast friends and in 1993 Frank and Rombauer entered into what some considered an unusual business relationship of Hollywood and farming when they acquired the Kornell Champagne Cellars at the Larkmead winery. They originally named the winery Frank-Rombauer, but the name created confusion in the market with Koerner's primary brand—Rombauer Vineyards—and in 1997 they re-named the brand Frank Family Vineyards. In the year 2000, the winery suffered the most devastating fire in Napa's history. Frank Family Vineyards lost thousands of cases of wine, including the 1997 vintage. Several small wineries that had custom crush and storage operations at the property lost their entire inventory as well. The historic stone winery was saved in the fire, while most of the newer areas were completely destroyed. The winery was reconstructed in 2001 and is in full production today. A new tasting room is in the Franks' plans for 2007.

Frank Family Vineyards is located in the historic Larkmead winery in Napa Valley—the third oldest winery in Napa. Rich Frank's personal estate, Winston Hill, is located on the east side of the Napa Valley along the Vaca Mountain Range, and has 25 acres of land planted to Bordeaux varieties (of 107 total acres

owned by the Franks). In cool climate Carneros, 138 acres of the Buchli Station Vineyard yield Frank Family's signature Chardonnay, and 78 acres east of the Vaca Mountain range in Napa's Capell Valley are planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, which will first come on line with the 2004 vintage. These diverse vineyard holdings and site specific locations allow Winemaker Todd Graff a plethora of tools at the blending table and the ability to craft some of Napa's finest wines.

The winery was once owned by Hanns Kornell and originally secured its reputation with sparkling wines. Five sparkling wines are handcrafted today in the old stone building: Brut, Blanc de Blancs, Blanc de Noirs, Rouge and Reserve. All of these are made in the traditional French *methode champenoise* style.

Frank Family Vineyards' wines are produced in small quantities and the majority are sold at the winery. Today, their national distribution continues to grow due to market demand with their wines found in nearly 20 states throughout the country.

### **About Frank Family Vineyards**

Frank Family Vineyards' convivial tasting room offers a perfect off-the-beaten path feel for wine lovers looking for a new secret. Most often seen sporting broad smiles and wielding open bottles, the gregarious tasting room staff offers one of the most varied and casual tasting experiences in the Napa Valley—and keeps their fans coming back. Rich Frank estimates that about 85% of the visitors to Frank Family are either repeat visitors or have heard about the winery through family and friends. With that many thirsty guests, Winemaker Todd Graff is a busy man: he crafts three Cabernet Sauvignons, a Chardonnay, a Reserve Chardonnay and a Reserve Pinot Noir from Carneros, as well as a Zinfandel, a Sangiovese, a Port and five sparkling wines that are only sold through the tasting room.



Rich Frank and Winemaker Todd Graff.

Located at 1091 Larkmead Lane in Calistoga, Frank Family Vineyards is open to the public daily from 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary for a tasting, and there is no charge for a tasting or tour. Tours are available Tuesday through Thursday at 11am and 1pm. Please visit [www.frankfamilyvineyards.com](http://www.frankfamilyvineyards.com) or contact Dennis Zablosky at 800.574.9463 for more information.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JARVIS COMMUNICATIONS AT 310.313.6374**