



Real Dirt. Real People. Real Wine.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
contact: melissa@ancientoakcellars.com
707-836-3099

Ancient Oak Cellars Finds Big Success in Small Batches

Family-owned winery's 2010 Pagnano Vineyard Zinfandel awarded 91 points by *Wine Spectator* Magazine

SANTA ROSA, CA – [Ancient Oak Cellars](#), producer of wines from small family-owned and -farmed vineyards in Sonoma County, California, was started by husband-and-wife team Ken and Melissa Moholt-Siebert. The devoted vintners will be opening a tasting room in Santa Rosa later this fall, and have recently expanded their vineyards. The winery is an "overnight success" after working hard under the radar for the last six years. They are releasing several award-winning offerings and received a 91-point ranking from *Wine Spectator's* Tim Fish:

"Zinfandel is grown successfully all over California, but thanks in part to its many old vineyards, Sonoma County is central ... Ancient Oak Cellars' 2010 Pagnano Vineyard Russian River Valley Zinfandel is one of the two top wines this week."

Working side-by-side with their expert winemaker [Kent Barthman](#), Ken and Melissa are delighted with the fruits of their labor. They say that this is a magical time for their winery's new releases, notably the 2009 Siebert Ranch Pinot, made from their family estate vineyard. Barthman adds, "Right now represents us hitting our stride, and this year we are taking the winery to the next level, especially with our expanding Cabernet program."

The couple started the winery in 2006 with just a couple hundred cases of Pinot Noir, from grapes planted by Ken's grandfather, Henry Siebert. Today they have additional vineyards and produce about five thousand cases, with estate and Russian River Valley appellation Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Zinfandel. Their expansion includes releasing a 2009 Alexander Valley Cabernet, leasing and farming 23 acres of Cabernet, Merlot and Cabernet Franc on Sonoma Mountain, and releasing the 91-point Pagnano Zinfandel from a vineyard they also lease and farm directly. They also produce red and white table wines and a Sonoma County Pinot under their playful sister-label, [47Friends](#).

After years of requests from customers for a "public" space, Ken and Melissa are thrilled to be opening a tasting room. Located inside the landmark [Corrick's](#) store, it will be the first tasting room of its kind in downtown Santa Rosa's Fourth Street area, made possible by a forward-thinking re-write of the local zoning code by the City of Santa Rosa. Celebrating the dual importance of art and wine in the Moholt-Sieberts' lives, the tasting room will open in October. Read the [Press Democrat's article](#) about the project.

More About Ancient Oak Cellars:

Celebrating the dirt and the people that come together to create Ancient Oak Cellars' wine, husband-and-wife team [Ken and Melissa Moholt-Siebert](#) work to continue Ken's grandfather's lineage, tending the land they once helped him plant.

They named the winery after the large valley oak in the center of the property, which has seen vineyards planted, torn out during Prohibition, and planted again. Their [vineyards](#), in the Russian River Valley, Sonoma Mountain, and Alexander Valley areas of Sonoma County, are personally farmed by the Moholt-Sieberts along with the families that live on them. Steeped in a philosophy of a deep and direct relationship to and love for the land, Melissa says [sustainable farming](#) is a primary concern and, "it's what you do when you live on and work the land in trust for your children and grandchildren."

For more information or to order wine, please visit www.ancientoakcellars.com or call 707-836-3099.

###