West Coast Wine Partners Announces Acquisition of the Historic Valley of the Moon Winery on the Madrone Vineyards Estate and the Lake Sonoma Winery Brand

West Coast Wine Partners is pleased to announce the acquisition of the historic Valley of the Moon Winery on the Madrone Vineyards estate, as well as the Lake Sonoma Winery brand. Previously owned by F. Korbel & Bros., the purchase includes the Glen Ellen-based Valley of the Moon Winery and sixty-acre estate property, the Valley of the Moon brand and inventory, and the Lake Sonoma Winery brand and inventory.

Napa, California (PRWEB) August 23, 2012 -- West Coast Wine Partners is pleased to announce the acquisition of the historic Valley of the Moon Winery on the Madrone Vineyards estate, as well as the Lake Sonoma Winery brand. Previously owned by F. Korbel & Bros., the purchase includes the Glen Ellen-based Valley of the Moon Winery and sixty-acre estate property, the Valley of the Moon brand and inventory, and the Lake Sonoma Winery brand and inventory.

“Located on the original Madrone Vineyards estate, Valley of the Moon Winery has deep historical roots in both the California and Sonoma wine industries,” said Dan Zepponi, President of West Coast Wine Partners and a third generation California vintner. “As vintners who have spent our lives and careers growing and making wine, the Stewart family and I were drawn to this property because of its historical significance, its legacy of wine quality and its authentic sense of place.”

Valley of the Moon and the Madrone Vineyards estate have a rich grape growing and winemaking tradition that began in 1863 when the property was first planted to grapes by vintner George Whitman. Christened Madrone Vineyards in 1883, the property changed hands several times and the winery was renamed Valley of the Moon by Enrico Parducci and Peter Domenici in 1941. In 1997 F. Korbel & Bros. acquired the property, transforming it into a state of the art winemaking facility. Drawing in part on grapes grown in its estate vineyard, which includes old vine Zinfandel blocks dating back to 1935, Valley of the Moon Winery has long been an acclaimed Sonoma County producer of Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and small lots of other varieties and blends.

Scott McLeod, formerly of Francis Ford Coppola’s Rubicon Estate, will be consulting winemaker, working with Valley of the Moon’s Greg Winter to set a new direction for the wines.

Established in 1977, Lake Sonoma Winery focuses on appellation-driven wines from Sonoma County including Dry Creek Zinfandel, Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc and Russian River Chardonnay.

“This property has an illustrious heritage of almost 150 years of Sonoma winemaking and enormous potential,” said Zepponi. “We’re excited about re-energizing the brands, refocusing our efforts in the vineyards and on the property’s small lot estate wine program to improve quality and to start telling the story of this historic estate.”

“We are delighted to partner with Dan on this historic premium property and to help restore it to one of the top wineries in the Sonoma Valley,” said Tony Stewart, Partner at West Coast Wine Partners.
With a renewed focus on bringing consumers a unique winery experience steeped in authenticity, history and a sense of place, West Coast Wine Partners aims to make Valley of the Moon Winery a Sonoma destination where people can experience luxury wines and impeccable service in an unforgettable setting.

Zepponi & Company, the global wine industry mergers and acquisitions advisory firm, served as the exclusive financial advisor to F. Korbel & Bros. and negotiated the sale to West Coast Wine Partners.

Based in Napa, California, West Coast Wine Partners was founded in 2010 as a partnership between Dan Zepponi and the Stewart family of Kelowna, BC. Zepponi, formerly President of the Mark Anthony Group wine division in Canada and Senior Vice President for Production/Operations at Fosters Wine Estates (now Treasury Wine Estates), is a third generation California vintner. His family co-founded ZD Winery, which was established on family property in Sonoma prior to relocating to Napa Valley. The Stewart family of Kelowna, BC owns Quails’ Gate Winery in the Okanagan Valley, where they have grown grapes since 1961. West Coast Wine Partners also produces wine under the PLUME label from Napa Valley.

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