



Discover the wine world's best kept secrets

MEDIA RELEASE

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Update

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Wine Divas: Vintage Heroines

International showcase wine-tasting of the feminine touch led by female winemaker Mrs. Valérie Riboud-Rousselle of Château Roubine Provence Cru Classé and female wine merchant Ms. Ada Leung to benefit the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation

HKSAR, China 3 July, 2009 – On Monday 20th July, 2009, in a three-session wine-tasting event held at Café Landmark, entitled, “Wine Divas”, Cottage Vineyards (International) (“Cottage Vineyards”), founded and managed by female wine lover, Ada Leung, together with Mrs. Valérie Riboud-Rousselle, founder and winemaker of Château Roubine Provence Cru Classé, will showcase the fruits, or rather fermented fruits of seven exemplary women winemakers (wine divas) around the world who have broken through the [wine] glass ceiling.

Besides showing the vintages of these women winemakers, the event will also show a giving side to these wine heroines: With wines sponsored by the winemakers, 100% of the event ticket proceeds after deducting the restaurants’ minimal service costs and 20% of the remaining months’ sales coming from orders of the event will be donated by Cottage Vineyards (International) to the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation.

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Fund-raising
Beneficiary:



Cottage Vineyards (International) Limited 村鄉葡萄園(國際)有限公司
Suite 7B, 7/F., Yu Wing Building, 64-66 Wellington Street, Central, Hong Kong.
Tel. (852) 2395 1293; Fax.: (852) 3542 4599; Email: tastings@cottagevineyards.com



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After the event, Wine Divas wine order forms will continue to be available at Café Landmark from 16-31 July, 2009, and from Cottage Vineyards at Tel. 2395 1293.

The “Wine Diva” event, priced at HK\$150.00 per participant per session consists of three sessions: (1) 4:30pm – 6:00pm; (2) 6:00pm – 7:30pm; and (3) 7:30pm -9:00pm.

Each session will consist of presentations by Mrs. Valérie Riboud-Rousselle on: (1) the challenges and advantages faced by women winemakers; (2) the features of women winemaker-made wines; (3) the story of Valérie’s foray into the winemaking industry; and (4) the tasting of eight wines made by women winemakers led by Valérie and Cottage Vineyards Managing Director Ms. Ada Leung; with (5) chances to order the Wine Divas wines where part of the proceeds will be donated to the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation.

The eight wines featured in the tasting event are: (1) Parés Baltà Cava Brut Nature (\$188); (2) Château Le Devoy Martine Lirac Blanc 2007 (\$198); (3) Château Roubine Provence Cru Classé Cuvée Prestige Terre de Croix Blanc 2006 (\$278); (4) Château Roubine Provence Cru Classé Tête de Cuvée Inspire Rosé 2007 (\$278); (5) Meerendal Pinotage 2005 (\$218); (6) Parés Baltà Hisenda Miret 2007 (Garnatxa) (\$398); (7) Arbor Crest Merlot 2005 (\$198); and (8) Château de Bastard Sauternes 2005 (\$298).

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Such a rare selection is composed of wines from the following seven women winemakers:

(1) Maria Elena Jimenez and (2) Marta Casas of Parés Baltà (Penedès, SPAIN); (3) Ms. Véronique Lombardo of Château Le Devoy Martine Lirac (Côtes du Rhône, FRANCE); (4) Valérie Riboud-Rousselle of Château Roubine (Côtes de Provence – Cru Classé, FRANCE); (5) Liza Goodwin of Meerendal Wine Estate (Durbanville, SOUTH AFRICA); (6) Kristina Mielke-van Löben Sels of Arbor Crest Wine Cellars (Washington State, USA); and (7) Catherine Gachet of Château de Bastard /Clos Dady (Bordeaux, FRANCE)

Participants to the event will receive handouts with tasting notes and food pairings of the wines with the story of each “Wine Diva”.

Said Ada Leung, Managing Director of Cottage Vineyards, “I put together the term, “Wine Diva” to describe each of the women winemakers featured in the event as I felt that the Italian term “diva”, used to describe a woman of rare, outstanding talent in the world of opera, and by extension in theatre, cinema and popular music, should also be extended to female winemakers who have also demonstrated talent and vision in the wine world.”

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Said Valérie Riboud-Rousselle, “I think the Wine Diva wine-tasting is a splendid idea.

Because it brings in the stories and wines of women winemakers from different places in the world, the event gets participants to look for similar traits we all have in common.

Moreover, I am proud to donate my wines to mediate threats common to all women, and am glad Ada Leung and Cottage Vineyards will also support by sharing the proceeds made on sales of our wines to the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation.”

All three wine-tasting sessions require advanced ticket purchases. From 15th June, 2009 onwards, interested parties can purchase tickets for the event from Cottage Vineyards by Tel. at (852) 2395 1293 or by E-mail at tastings@cottagevineyards.com.

One additional wine-tasting session, from 3:00pm to 4:00pm, in seminar-style format, on the same date as the three other sessions, is reserved for Members of the Media, and will include an additional presentation by Ms. Ada Leung on her reasons for holding the “Wine Divas” wine-tasting event as well as a short speech by Mrs. Veronica Bourke, Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation on the services of the foundation and how funds are used.

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Cottage Vineyards (International) will also schedule media previews and tastings of the Wine Divas wines for interested media.

A "Pink" Wine Divas Winemaker Dinner will follow this event in September 2009.

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About Cottage Vineyards (International)

Cottage Vineyards (International) Limited is a wine merchant established by wine lover, Ada Leung, with the mission of helping wine lovers in Hong Kong and Greater China "discover the wine world's best kept secrets". Specialized in the offerings of cool-climate wines produced by boutique wineries focused on creating and producing premium wines with unique characters, the company is the realization of Ms. Leung's dream after her founding of Hong Kong-listed company, *Finet Holdings Limited (E-finet.com)* (HKEx: 8317), where as the company's Chief Operating Officer, she helped devise and execute the business, marketing and Public Relations strategy which made the E-finet.com website Hong Kong's leading financial portal.

About Mrs. Valérie Riboud-Rousselle and Château Roubine

Valérie Riboud-Rousselle, born in 1963 in Saint-Tropez, South of France, graduated from Lausanne Hotel Management School, and worked for the Barrière Hotel Group in Deauville.

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In 1994, Valérie, seized by passion for CHATEAU ROUBINE, a renowned 112 hectares estate with 72 hectares of vines in one piece, decided to make it one of the region's flagship vineyards. At this moment, she decided to become a woman winemaker.

Crossed by the so-called Julienne Roman Road, the estate has been known since the beginning of the 14th century, when the Templar Knights sold it to the Order of Saint Jean of Jerusalem in 1307.

Located at the heart of the Var, between Lorgues and Draguignan, the land forms a circle bordered by pine trees and oak trees on a chalk and clay soil.

Cutting edge equipment combined with respect to regional traditions, the Château offers a range of three elegant wines (in rosé, white, and red) with delicate aromas and a smooth structure in the mouth.

Since March 2008, CHATEAU ROUBINE has been certificated "Agriculture Raisonnée" (Sustained agriculture).

Valérie's passion conducts her to be very active in the trade. She was President of the "Cru Classé" of Provence and Founder of the "Eléonores of Provence" an association of women.

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She obtained an oenology certificate in Suze-La-Rousse, a French Wine University, in 2007.

About Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation (HKBCF)

Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation, inaugurated in March 2005, is the first charity dedicated to breast cancer in Hong Kong. With the combined efforts of breast cancer survivors, their supporters and health care professionals, we serve the community by our dedication to breast cancer education, support and advocacy.

The missions of HKBCF are: raise public awareness of breast cancer and the importance of early detection; provide support for breast cancer patients on their road to recovery; support research and advocate for better breast cancer care and treatment in Hong Kong.

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