

For Immediate Release  
December 11, 2012

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## **VINA ROBLES SUPPORTS LOCAL NONPROFIT WITH SUCCESSFUL CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL**

### **\$1,200 raised for Project Hope and Fairness**

*Paso Robles, CA*— On Saturday, November 10, 2012, Vina Robles Winery held its Chocolate Festival to support Project Hope and Fairness, a San Luis Obispo based nonprofit that works with cocoa farmers to promote sustainability and adopt fair trade cocoa practices. With the help of over 20 local and regional vendors and 150 guests, Vina Robles was able to raise \$1,208.19 for the organization.

Vina Robles invited guests to come melt into a decadent afternoon on November 10 as they hosted their first ever Chocolate Festival in the luxurious Signature Room of their hospitality center in the heart of Paso Robles wine country. The idea to dedicate an entire event to all things chocolate arose from the popularity of their Petite Sirah and Chocolate Experience. This unique tasting showcases one of the winery's flagship varieties, Petite Sirah, and pairs each of five releases with a handmade chocolate truffle that was exclusively crafted for the winery by Mama Ganache Artisan Chocolates in San Luis Obispo.

"Because of our Swiss heritage, we embrace a "European approach" that favors food-friendly wines with modest alcohol content and a bright finish," explains managing partner Hans – R. Michel. "To promote the enjoyment of wine with food, we introduced several new tasting experiences including a selection of wine and food pairings."

The event was the ultimate in confectionary comfort and encompassed anything made of chocolate or that complemented chocolate. An array of local wineries - including Baileyana Winery, Castoro Cellars, Mitchella Vineyard & Winery, Tolosa Winery, as well as Vina Robles - offered their chocolate friendly wines. Meanwhile, chocolatiers, restaurants and food purveyors from all over the Central Coast and across California shared their chocolate inspired fare, ranging from baked goods to chocolate covered bacon. Lastly, several spas and soap makers introduced guests to the magic behind the soothing power of the cocoa bean.

The event was such a success that Vina Robles is planning on making it an annual festival.

A small ceremony was held during Vina Robles' annual Illuminating Evening on November 30 to present Project Hope & Fairness' president and founder, Tom Neuhaus, with the check.

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### **ABOUT VINA ROBLES**

We craft wines that represent a stylistic bridge between the Old and New worlds, capturing the finesse associated with European wines while celebrating the bold natural flavors of our estate vineyards in Paso Robles. Here, proprietor Hans Nef and managing partner Hans – R. Michel bring their Swiss heritage to California's Central Coast, where they aim to unite the best of both experiences.

*European Inspiration – California Character*

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