

ALHONA

VINEYARDS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 27, 2006

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Alhona Vineyards Waiting To Harvest Their Largest Crop Yet

Carmel Valley, CA – Having just received a new grape press, Alhona Vineyards is anxiously waiting to begin pressing the grapes from their 2006 vintage. Alhona Vineyards is a Central Coast winery devoted to the Bordeaux varietals of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc; the grapes are grown on their 11 acres of planted vineyards.

Alhona Vineyards was founded by Rick and Patti Alhona, along with their sons, Chris and Matt, in 1991. Their inaugural release was their **2002 Alhona Vineyards Carmel Valley Merlot**, which has now moved Alhona from the realm of satisfying their friends, into the sphere of also satisfying consumers, making their growth into a commercial enterprise in Carmel Valley's Central Coast.

According to Rick Alhona, "We've just received a new Italian grape press, which is awaiting my preliminary check before the crush. This new press, which I have affectionately named 'Goliath', allows us to hydraulically press the fermented grapes gently; however, in much greater quantity than before - 1.5 tons in one simple operation. What a pleasure to retire our faithful – yet tedious – manual press, which we've considerably outgrown."

Since their 2006 harvest was a bumper crop, winemaker Rick Alhona is very excited about his next step; so excited, in fact, that **he's going to be journaling** his experiences on his Web site. www.alhonavineyards.com

To be moving from a small manual press to a hydraulic one will be an interesting learning curve. Rick believes that the process will be a fascinating one, and is willing to share his experiences with anyone who wants to live this pressing experience vicariously. Updates will be as frequent as the energy allows, but it will be one that will have some fun experiences, no doubt.

The air at Alhona Vineyards is abuzz with anticipation; they've never had so many grapes to press, or so much wine before them to make. They're quite literally ready to enjoy the fruits of their efforts as they look toward their 2006 vintage as their best yet!

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