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Frazier Winery Welcomes Kirk Venge as New Head Winemaker

Next Generation Winemaker Joins Boutique Napa Valley Winery

Napa Valley, CA, September 22, 2008 - Frazier Winery, producer of premium, estate red wines from Napa Valley, announced today that Kirk Venge will join the Frazier team as the new head winemaker. Kirk will continue to develop and enhance the high-quality standards the winery has put into practice since 1995. Under Kirk's leadership, Frazier will continue to produce the estate Cabernets and Merlots they have become known for but also plans to diversify their portfolio by launching a new line of estate and non-estate varietals. Current Winemaker John Gibson is leaving his winemaking role at Frazier after a 13 year run. John will continue to consult for a select few wineries in Napa and will focus more on his own wine project, Salexis.

Kirk Venge, son of acclaimed winemaker Nils Venge, graduated from The University of California at Davis with a viticulture and enology degree. Kirk grew up in the Napa wine industry watching and working alongside his father Nils from the time he was just a child. Kirk's experience began with a 5 year harvest position at Mumm Napa Valley which was soon followed by a season working in the Southern Hemisphere at Rapaura Vintner's, a custom crush facility in Marlborough, New Zealand. In 1999 Kirk and his father Nils launched their own project Venge Vineyards where Kirk has established his own reputation for producing world class wines. Kirk's philosophy is that wine is made "first in the vineyard and second in the winery". At Frazier, Kirk will guide the development of Frazier's future releases from their estate vineyards as well as assist in the creation of new estate and non-estate varietals, including Frazier's first white wine made from Chardonnay vines planted on the estate in 2008.

"Frazier is excited to welcome Kirk to our family here at Frazier" said Bill Frazier, owner of Frazier Winery. "We look forward to working with him for many years and furthering our goal to produce premium wines emphasizing the expression of the vineyard. We will look to Kirk to continue to develop and enhance our small lots of estate wines from the best blocks of our vineyard, as well as to implement some new exciting winemaking techniques and varietal programs". Kirk adds, "I'm very excited to be a part of the Frazier's vision and perseverance to making outstanding wines. I believe the site has shown wonderful potential in the past and I look forward to having a hand in making wine on this beautiful estate."

Frazier Winery, located in the Coombsville region of Napa Valley, is owned by Bill Frazier. Bill's daughter Kim heads up the marketing and operations at Frazier alongside Adam Caterino who manages the sales. Bill's son Jon takes care of their 21 acres of estate vineyards. Frazier was started in 1995 when, after retiring from 34 years in the airline industry, Bill decided to plant 9 acres of vineyards on the east side of Napa and start his own label. While the initial production started at 900 cases per year Frazier has grown to a successful family run venture producing approximately 3000 cases annually. For more information on Frazier Winery please visit www.frazierwinery.com.

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