

## **Sterling Vineyards donates \$30,000 to The Land Trust Of Napa County**

Napa Valley winery Sterling Vineyards has donated \$30,000 to the Land Trust of Napa County through the sale of its premium 2004 Napa Valley Wildlake Ranch Merlot.

In addition, Sterling Vineyards has announced the release of the 2005 vintage of Wildlake Ranch Merlot benefiting the Land Trust's preservation of the Duff and Wildlake Ranch properties in the eastern viewshed of the Napa Valley.

The official release date for this second vintage of Wildlake Ranch Merlot was July 17.

The Land Trust of Napa County, spearheaded by the efforts of vintner Randy Dunn, was able to acquire the Wildlake Ranch property in July of 2006 and is in the middle of a campaign to also secure the Duff property in 2008.

When combined, the Duff and Wildlake Ranch properties will connect to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, creating a 10,000 acre suite of property with 15 miles of public access trails — one of the largest and most significant undeveloped, pristine and natural properties in Napa Valley.

The property's relationship with Sterling Vineyards deep-rooted – the entire eastern view from the winery's iconic vista terrace consists of the Duff and Wildlake Ranch ridgeline.

“The Sterling Vineyards donation through sales of Wildlake Ranch Merlot is emblematic of the support that the Napa Valley Wild Campaign has received from Napa's agricultural community,” said John Hoffnagle, executive director of the Land Trust.

“What better way to celebrate the acquisition of the Wildlake and Duff Ranch properties than to purchase a bottle of Wildlake Ranch Merlot, knowing that proceeds from each bottle are going directly to the purchase and stewardship of this stunning landscape,” Hoffnagle added.

“This special wine is a testament to our commitment to ensure this special property remains enjoyable to the Napa Valley community and all of its visitors,” said Michael Westrick, vice president of winemaking for Sterling Vineyards. “Everyone at Sterling Vineyards – from the cellar to the tasting room and in between – is proud to support and is committed to raising important funds for the preservation of this unspoiled piece of land.”

Only available at the winery, the 2005 Wildlake Ranch Merlot retails for \$50 a bottle, with \$10 donated to the Land Trust of Napa County. During the release weekend, today through Sunday, Sterling Vineyards will increase the donation to \$20 a bottle sold.