

**For Immediate Release**

## **Wine, Food Luminaries Form Sauvignon Republic**

**- A Brand Focused Exclusively on the Sauvignon Blanc Grape -**

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY, CA September 16, 2004 - - - Four distinguished veterans of the wine and food world created **Sauvignon Republic Cellars**, dedicated to the Sauvignon Blanc grape. The partners are chef/author/educator **John Ash**; winemaker/educator **John Buechsenstein**; wine industry leader and visionary **Paul Dolan**; restaurateur /wine marketer **Tom Meyer**. Their business premise identifies Sauvignon Blanc as a unique variety that clearly expresses its region of origin and complements a full spectrum of world cuisines.

Sauvignon Republic produces a constellation of wines from worldwide regions best known for growing outstanding Sauvignon Blanc. Two wines are currently in the market: **2003 Russian River Valley** (Sonoma County) and **2004 Marlborough** (New Zealand). The partners plan to release wines from France's Loire Valley, the northern Italian region of Friuli and the cool Cape of South Africa. "Because we are working in two hemispheres, we will introduce a new wine every six months," says Winemaker and General Manager John Buechsenstein. "We source our grapes from growers who are environmentally and socially conscious." Each wine is a tangible expression of *terroir*, with fresh flavors, crisp acidity and no oak influence. To protect the wines' lively character, the winery uses Stelvin screwcaps as closures.

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