



## **COUNTY OF LAKE**

### **MARKETING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

JANUARY 29, 2009

### **HIGH VALLEY VINEYARD TASTING ROOM OPENS IN CLEARLAKE OAKS, CALIFORNIA**

**CLEARLAKE OAKS, CA** — Named after one of the newest and most exciting American Viticultural Areas (AVA) in the United States, High Valley Vineyard has opened a tasting room in Clearlake Oaks, California.

Numerous windows and French doors open onto the back patio and fill this newly built tasting room with natural light. The rustic-looking exterior is adorned with cedar shake and topped with a mossy green metal roof. The spacious interior has a fresh, modern feel with tinted and smooth concrete floors and a highly polished copper-topped tasting bar.

The High Valley Vineyard made its first commercial release just six years ago in 2003 and has been winning awards since then. Of particular note, its 2004 Sauvignon Blanc received a Double Gold at the 2008 North of the Gate wine competition and a Gold at the 2005 Long Beach Grand Cru and the 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon received a Gold at the 2008 Orange County Fair.

Owners Dustin and Bobbie Brassfield have 28 acres planted with of Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Barbera, and Petite Sirah planted in the High Valley AVA, which differs from most winegrape growing regions because it is situated in an east/west orientation instead of a north/south orientation like most valleys in California. This geological anomaly means that the cool air from nearby Clear Lake, the largest natural lake in California, flows into High Valley, which has a low western ridge that allows airflow.

The tasting room also pours Pinot Noir from Heart O' The Mountain, a winery owned by Dustin Brassfield's brother in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Tours of the High Valley Vineyards can be made by appointment, and the tasting room is available to rent for small parties.

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The tasting room is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is conveniently located at 13151 East Highway 20 in Clearlake Oaks. (707) 998-9400, [www.highvalleywine.com](http://www.highvalleywine.com)

Located in beautiful Northern California, Lake County is just two hours by car from the San Francisco Bay Area, the Sacramento Valley, and the Pacific Coast. Lake County is home to Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in California and possibly the oldest lake on the continent. Visitors to Lake County experience the state's cleanest air basin, spectacular scenic beauty, fine wines, headliner concerts, and unsurpassed recreational opportunities — from hiking, biking, golf, and off-road adventures to boating, fishing, kayaking, birding, and even rockhounding. Lake County is part of the North Coast AVA, which also encompasses Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties. Within Lake County, five other AVAs exist — Clear Lake AVA, Benmore Valley AVA, Guenoc AVA, and the recently approved Red Hills AVA and High Valley AVA. The local area code is 707. For visitor information, contact the Lake County Visitor Information Center at (800) 525-3743 or [www.LakeCounty.com](http://www.LakeCounty.com).

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