

## Washington Wine Academy to Make 2010 Barrel at Vint Hill Craft Winery

Washington, D.C.—June 3, 2010— The Washington Wine Academy is thrilled to announce a partnership with Vint Hill Craft Winery to make a barrel during the 2010 harvest. Students and friends of the Washington Wine Academy will assume part ownership of the barrel, participating in its making and monitoring over the course of vintage and keeping a case of the finished wine. In consultation with the winemakers at Vint Hill, Washington Wine Academy decided to make Petit Manseng, a variety of French heritage which has shown stunning potential in Virginia. The wine will be both fermented and aged in Acacia barrels, modeled off a similar wine produced by Vint Hill under its own label during the 2009 vintage which it will enter in the Governor's Cup at the 2010 Virginia State Fair.

Vint Hill shares Washington Wine Academy's dedication to wine education, so Washington Wine Academy is thrilled to offer this further dimension into the wine industry. "Few people are fortunate enough to be able to get this hands-on with winemaking, especially to learn from such a talented and respected team as those at Vint Hill," says Jim Barker, president of the Washington Wine Academy. "We're excited to expose our students to the production side of winemaking, hopefully furthering their current passion and curiosity about wine."

The winemaking team at Vint Hill will teach a "Winemaking 101" prior to harvest which presents the basics of winemaking and expectations for the process. Students will then have the opportunity to return to Vint Hill when the grapes come in to help with sorting, pressing, and other initial activity needed. When the wine needs to be racked, Washington Wine Academy will return to taste how the wine has evolved in barrel. Finally, Washington Wine Academy will help with the bottling and labeling, as designed by WWA. Partners will celebrate the end of the process and walk away with a case of their wine.

Vint Hill Craft Winery is one of few custom winemaking facilities in the United States, allowing individuals to act as a winemaker by selecting the grape and style, working during harvest, and designing their own label. Founded in 2009 by esteemed Virginia winemaker Chris Pearmund and business executive Ray Summerell, Vint Hill is a short drive from downtown Washington, D.C. which allows urban wine enthusiasts easy access to their barrels and the education seminars presented by the team at Vint Hill. A "green" winery, Vint Hill is located in unique historic barn

facilities which were once a secure listening station used by the US Government from the early 1940s through the late 1990s.

The Washington Wine Academy was founded in July 1999 as a 501c3 not for profit organization whose mission is to provide first-class educational wine events, festivals, wine certification and wine programs in the Washington, D.C. area. Our wine study programs include the WSET certification program, the French Wine Scholar, the Certified Specialist of Wine Program, a 1-Hour Wine school which serves as an introduction, and themed classes. The Washington Wine Academy places emphasis on Virginia wines, through wine tours, classes, and festivals devoted to increasing awareness of the growing wine region. The Washington Wine Academy partners with area businesses and festivals to ensure all events and environments are informative, safe, and fun.

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