

For Immediate Release

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Mendocino Cooperage Barrels Available Once Again

Sonoma County USA, April 6, 2010: Mendocino Cooperage barrels are being re-introduced to the U.S. market by Oakasion, LLC of Healdsburg, CA. For many years the Mendocino Northern oak barrels made from 36 month aged Northern American oak were a standard with winemakers who wanted a refined American oak barrel.

Now Mendocino Cooperage barrels are available in both 36 month aged Northern oak and 24 month aged Appalachian oak. Both Bordeaux and Burgundy styles are available.

Like the finest oak forests in Europe, American forests are capable of producing exceptional consistency. The challenge is to identify unique forest regions and to preserve the nuances unique to each.

Our Northern oak comes from the northwestern edge of the species' natural range, where Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa converge- the Northern Heartland. Forests in this region are subjected to harsh winters with extreme cold and heavy snowfall.

Growing seasons are short. Mature, well-drained, limestone-based soils, that predate the last ice age, anchor this area's oak forest on cool, moist ravine slopes. These slopes create ideal aspects that protect the trees from harsh sun and dry westerly winds. All this contributes to the slow growth of uniform, undisturbed, high-quality timber.

Mountain vistas, high hills and secluded forest waterfalls characterize the important Appalachian forest region where Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania unite. High elevations, relative to other white oak forests (beginning at about 1000 feet), impart unique characteristics to the wood there. The climate is extremely consistent from year to year. Cold winters and generally cool growing seasons combine with less fertile mountain soils to control annual growth. This promotes exceptionally clear, consistent timber, making the Central Appalachian Mountains a premium region for white oak.

Mendocino Cooperage barrels have always been produced with a commitment to consistency and quality construction. That commitment extends to the last detail of how our forest regions are chosen, how our oak is selected, milled and seasoned, and how our barrels are handcrafted.

An old favorite is available once again.

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