



**For Immediate Release**

**Pellet Estate appoints Tom Rinaldi Head Winemaker**

ST.HELENA, Calif. — May 5, 2015— / PR Newswire: Pellet Estate® today announced the appointment of Tom Rinaldi as Winemaker, managing all aspects of winemaking and production. Pellet Estate’s highly acclaimed Cabernet Sauvignon is produced from the Pellet Vineyard®, a heritage site first planted in 1859 by Henry Pellet, one of the original pioneers of the Napa Valley’s winegrowing genesis.

“Few Winemakers have the portfolio that Tom has. An icon in Napa Valley, he is absolutely one of Napa’s most legendary talents, and we are excited to have him be part of our winery”, says Eric Risch, General Manager.

“I’m energized and thrilled to be joining the Pellet Estate team” says Tom, entering into his 40<sup>th</sup> vintage. “We are offered only a few chances in a lifetime to do something truly great, and I have certainly had my share. I am honored to be working with Pellet Estate, making wine from this historic site.”

**About Tom**

Raised in San Francisco, Tom made frequent trips to Napa on his motorcycle, buying wines directly from the wineries of the day. After four years in the Navy, Tom enrolled at UC Davis along with notable classmates Mike Martini, Tim Mondavi, Randy Dunn, and Bob Levy.

Tom’s career began at Freemark Abbey, an experience he calls “a great job, and a great honor.” In 1978, Tom became the founding winemaker at Duckhorn Vineyards. After 22 vintages of creating some of Napa’s most celebrated wines, Tom helped launch Provenance Vineyards and Hewitt Vineyard from the ground up. Tom’s recent 2010 Hewitt Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon was named to the Wine Spectator’s Top 10 in the world for 2013, and the #1 Wine in California.

Tom resides with his wife and daughter in St. Helena, where you will either find him in the vineyard, the cellar, or riding his bike throughout the Napa Valley.

**About Pellet Estate**

Pellet Estate produces rare, authentically grown, classically made Cabernet Sauvignon from the heritage Pellet Vineyard in the renowned Napa Valley St. Helena AVA, and award-winning Chardonnay from the Sunchase Vineyard in the Petaluma Gap. The Estate vineyard is located at the base of the western slopes of the Mayacamas Mountains, recognized for producing some of the most famous and sought after wines in the United States. For more information, visit [www.pelletestate.com](http://www.pelletestate.com).

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