

Press Release \ \ May 12th, 2010

Grapevault Wine Investments seals first transaction in Germany

Investment in historical winery Baron Knyphausen targets growing international market for Riesling from top terroirs

Munich / Eltville, May 12th, 2010

Grapevault Wine Investments has completed its first transaction in Germany, creating a joint venture with the historic Baron Knyphausen Winery in the heart of the Rhine River area known as the Rheingau in Eltville-Erbach, Germany.

Grapevault Wine Investments creates and manages limited partnerships and private placements focused on the purchase, renovation, and marketing of exclusively top vineyards with the unique characteristics of terroir. Grapevault uses a proprietary evaluation model for pricing potential investments and forecasting future financial performance. The first investments will target the production of Riesling, Grüner Veltliner, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Nebiolo. Due diligence is currently being performed on vineyards in Austria, with Burgundy, Piemont, and Sonoma Valley to follow.

Dr. **Wolfgang E. Frank**, *Grapevault* Managing Director, explains: “*The world is swimming in non-descript wines from non-descript vineyards. Grapevault is dedicated to the future production of top-quality wines from vineyards of unique character, that have stood the test of time. Baron Knyphausen embodies these attributes for making first-class Riesling. Grapevault is rapidly gaining visibility for helping solve financial, marketing, and generational issues for what have traditionally been family businesses.*”

Baron Gerko Freiherr zu Knyphausen, the seventh generation scion of Weingut Baron Knyphausen, believes *Rheingau Riesling* is poised for a strong international renaissance due to its distinct character and remarkable match to many cuisines throughout the world. “*I believe our top quality wines will be joyously discovered for their unique qualities, which are not typical of Rieslings grown in any other parts of the world. We are the original!*”

The Rheingau is the birthplace of noble Riesling, but only recently is beginning to re-stake its reputation for producing some of the finest wines in the world. The top historical terroirs in the Rheingau have existed for hundreds of years, some originating as monasterial vineyards in the 12th century. At the turn of the 20th century, the best dessert wines from the Rheingau were the most sought after, and not those of Sauternes. Following two World Wars and a disastrous reform of the German wine production laws in 1971, high quality German Riesling largely disappeared from the international market.



Baron Knyphausen currently manages 22 hectare of premium Riesling vineyards including the world famous **Erbacher Marcobrunn** and the **Hattenheimer Wisselbrunnen**. Historical records date the “**Draiser Hof**” to **1141**, with the Knyphausen family taking title to the property in 1811.

In addition to its vineyard investments, *Grapevault* has a professional team dedicated to invests in collectible and rare wines, and is an active investor in creating technological solutions for wine industry challenges. Early investments are directed at solving the problem of “corked wines” through the invention of a superior bottle closure and developing an anti-counterfeiting solution for the producers of premium and ultra-premium wines.

PRESS CONTACT

Grapevault Wine Investments GmbH
Bahnhofstraße 9
82041 Deisenhofen / Germany
Telefon: +49 (0)89 / 678 055 60
Fax: + 49 (0)89 / 678 055 77
Email: office@grapevault.com
Web: www.grapevault.com

Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang E. **Frank**, Managing Director
wolfgang.frank@grapevault.com

Stanley W. **Bronisz**, Investor Relations
stanley.bronisz@grapevault.com