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**VINTNERS INN A “GREEN HOTEL” -- AWARDED “ENVIRONMENTALIST LEVEL”
HIGHEST HONOR IN THE GREEN LODGING PROGRAM BY THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA’S DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES – THE ONLY
HOTEL IN SANTA ROSA TO RECEIVE THIS HIGHEST HONOR.**

SANTA ROSA, CA, November 6, 2011 -- Vintners Inn (www.vintnersinn.com) in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County’s premiere wine country destination, has been awarded the Environmentalist Level in the California Green Lodging Program by the State of California’s Department of General Services. The Environmentalist Level is the highest level of program participation. Vintners Inn is one of the few hotels throughout the State of California to have been honored with this award, and the only hotel in Santa Rosa!

The Green Lodging Program recognizes those “green hotels” doing their part to keep California green. The program brings together the lodging industry, state travelers and the environment, encouraging the diversion of waste from landfills and the conservation of energy and water, thus providing cleaner air to breathe. The program encourages state travelers to seek out these certified “green hotels” like Vintners Inn.

From the very beginning, owners Don and Rhonda Carano's green philosophy started with the planting of approximately 80 acres of vineyards surrounding Vintners Inn, the time and effort to build a waste treatment system for the property, and the introduction of vegetable and herb gardens, and olive tree orchards, as well as the manicured landscape with flowers and fountains.

“It’s always been our desire to do our part to help protect the environment,” said Rhonda Carano. “We’re so honored to be recognized for our efforts. We’re very proud we can say produce from our sustainable vegetable gardens is used in our from-the-earth-to-the-table menus at Vintners Inn, the Event Center and John Ash & Co.; our reclaimed water system helps cut down on fresh water usage; and we have one small garbage compactor that is picked up once a week– all good examples of how we are doing our part to further our green initiatives.”

Environmentalist Level hotels like Vintners Inn are required to meet certain program criteria regarding commitment to environmental practices, recycling and reuse, energy efficiency and conservation, lighting, water efficiency and conservation, landscape, pest management, hazardous and toxic substances, transportation, and purchasing. Environmentalist Level hotels must score 351 points or higher on a field test conducted by the State of California.

“I am so proud of our team here at Vintners Inn,” said General Manager Percy Brandon. “We could not have accomplished this coveted certification without the help and cooperation of our employees. Many of the initiatives came directly from line staff in cooperation with management. And, of course, we invite our guests to contribute to our efforts.”

Surrounded by the scenic Northern California landscape, acres of lush vineyards, and beautifully landscaped grounds with courtyards and fountains, Vintners Inn is located just 60 miles north of San Francisco in the heart of Sonoma County wine country. Vintners Inn has 44 luxurious rooms and suites, a state-of-the-art Event Center, the renowned John Ash & Co. restaurant, and The Front Room Bar & Lounge.

For more information, visit www.vintnersinn.com, or call 707-575-7350. For more information about the California Green Lodging Program, please visit www.travel.dgs.ca.gov/lodging/greenlodging.

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