



Montage

RESORT • SPA • RESIDENCES
Laguna Beach

Media Contact: Lehrman + Chin
Public Relations Laura Lehrman + Andria Chin
Phone: (212) 580-0099

**STUDIO AT MONTAGE RESORT & SPA DELIGHTS WINE LOVERS
WITH GALLERY CLASS**

A Selection of Exciting Rare Wines Available By The Glass

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (April 2, 2004) – Studio at Montage Resort & Spa Laguna Beach offers a unique wine tasting experience with its new “Gallery Class” wine list that features sought-after wines that are rarely poured by the glass. Situated atop a 50-foot bluff and designed in California craftsman-style architecture, Studio offers breathtaking views of the Pacific coastline and a warm, residential ambiance -- a one-of-a-kind setting in which to enjoy Executive Chef James Boyce's award-winning cuisine and a world-class wine list of 1,800 selections with more than 50 wines by the glass.

An extension of Studio’s wines by the glass program, “Gallery Class” introduces guests to highly coveted wines in terms of quality, limited production and maturity, with an emphasis on benchmark and small artisan wineries.

“The resort’s wine programs are an integral part of the Montage experience,” says Wine Director Christopher Coon, who oversees the resort’s seven sommeliers and an extensive collection of more than 35,000 bottles of wine and 1,800 labels from around the globe worth over \$3.5 million. “We are proud to have Studio showcase very exclusive, very mature benchmark wines that most wine lovers seldom have a chance to sample.”

--More--

STUDIO'S GALLERY CLASS WINES – 2

Studio's "Gallery Class" has a dozen exciting selections including:

- *Pio Cesare "Ornato" Barolo, Piedmont, Italy 1988* -- a limited production of just 6,000 cases, this 15-year-old Barolo offers tastes of black fruit and spice with hints of rose.
- *Opus One, Napa Valley, California 1994* – an exceptional vintage from this Napa boutique grande dame, perhaps the best of the past decade.
- *Trimbach "Cuvée Frédéric Émile" Riesling, Alsace, France 1999* – a younger selection from the venerable 1673 estate, this bone-dry Riesling explodes with pear, apricot and floral nuances and displays a beautiful crisp acidity.
- *Alois Kracher "Grand Cuvée" TBA #6, Burgenland Austria 2000* – one of only 330 cases produced by one of Austria's most revered producers, this rare find could be characterized as a "mouth-watering dessert in a glass."

Wines are purchased primarily for the Gallery Class in up to six-liter bottles. To ensure that these selections remain pristine over time, they are stored in pressurized wine keeper systems with individual pedestals on which each bottle is connected to a nitrogen gas canister. Coon adds, "The wine keeper prevents any air from entering the bottle, which allows us to take off a little at a time without diminishing the quality of the wine."

"Gallery Class" wines are available in 3-ounce and 6-ounce servings (dessert wines are offered in 1.5-ounce and 3-ounce servings). Prices range from \$8 to \$240 per glass.

Similar quality wine by the glass programs will be implemented in The Lobby Lounge at Montage and at The Loft, another resort dining venue featuring seasonal country cooking.

With sweeping panoramas of the Pacific and striking craftsman-style architecture, Montage Resort & Spa is situated on 30 lushly landscaped acres in the heart of the picturesque arts community of Laguna Beach. The luxury 262-room resort offers: elegant beachfront accommodations; a 20,000-square-foot oceanfront spa; three sparkling swimming pools; destination dining; and a museum-quality collection of fine art. For more information, please contact Montage at 1-888-715-6700; or visit the website at www.montagelagunabeach.com.

###