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NEWS

China Wine Tours Is First to Uncork a Unique Travel Experience Blending China's Budding Wine Regions with Its Vintage History & Culture

*Tours Showcase China's Rapidly Growing Wine Industry, While Also Immersing
Travelers in the Country's Renowned Tourist Destinations and Experiences*

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Jan. 24, 2008 – China Wine Tours is breaking new ground, in both travel to China and wine tourism, with tours that combine major historical and cultural sites with the first-ever visits to China's rapidly emerging wine country.

“Our tours are designed to showcase the growing wine industry in China, which is producing many fine wines, while also taking in the ancient and renowned sites everyone wants to see,” said George Aballi, U.S. sales representative for CWT. “It's the ultimate insider's journey that will intrigue and surprise dedicated wine enthusiasts and the general traveler alike.”

The 10-day tours are led by sommelier Paolo Wakham. A member of the International Court of Master Sommeliers and the Sommeliers Society of Washington, D.C., he teaches the history and evolution of wine and has guided many groups to wine regions around the globe. Wakham calls China “the new frontier of the international wine world.”

The itinerary includes visits to a number of wineries – among them the Shanxi Grace Vineyard in Taigu, Dynasty Winery in Tianjin, Longhui Winery near Beijing, Land Sun Vineyard in Yantai, and China Silk Winery in Urumqi – along with Tian An Men Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Terra-Cotta Warriors of Xian, the walled city of Antiquity-Pingyao and much more. The program includes all meals in China, cultural and acrobatic shows, and visits to various artisan workshops. Hotels are all Four- and Five-Star including the Five-Star Jade Palace in Beijing, Five-Star Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel in Xian and the Five-Star Yantai Binhai International Hotel in Yantai.

For those who have already made their travel plans to China, or are already in the country, CWT is also offering one-, two- and three-day tours.

With its wide variety of soils, climates and micro-climates conducive to growing quality grapes, China has been a pioneer in Asia in developing a wine industry using both indigenous and imported grape varieties. The first wineries in China were established in the late 1800s and today there are about 450 wine producers including many boutique winemakers. The vineyard that enjoys the most acclaim as China's best is the Shanxi Grace Vineyard in Taigu, which is on the China Wine Tours itinerary. While many types of wine are produced, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Chardonnay account for the majority of China's production. Most of the wineries visited by China Wine Tours have websites that are linked from the itinerary page on the CWT website.

The 10-day wine tour is \$3,199 per person, double occupancy, plus \$230 tax. For more details, including a full itinerary, and to book go to www.chinawinetours.com. Call George Aballi at 1-909-793-0328 extension 311 or the founder of CWT, Marc Curtis, at 1-909-362-5217.