

SWANSON VINEYARDS WINEMAKER DINNER ANNUAL EVENT AT NOONAN'S IN LARKSPUR

March 2007, Rutherford and Larkspur---For the third year, winemaker Chris Phelps of Swanson Vineyards will preside over a celebration of food and wine at a dinner devoted to Swanson wines at Noonan's Bar & Grill in Larkspur on April 26, 2007. The restaurant is located at 2233 Larkspur Landing Circle and can be reached by calling 415/464-8711.

Noonan's Executive Chef Jose Flores and winemaker Phelps collaborated to create a distinctive and delicious feast. The reception from 7:00 until 7:45 p.m., will consist of a variety of passed antipasti (crostinis, insalatas and peroncinis) with the 2006 Swanson Pinot Grigio. Dinner begins at 7:45 with a first course of Crispy Roast Poussin with pink pasta and dried cranberry glaze, accompanied by the 2006 Swanson Rosato. Next is a Wild Mushroom Napoleon of puff pastry, mascarpone and mushroom jus, with the 2003 Swanson Merlot followed by Pancetta-Wrapped Tenderloin of Beef with warm bread salad, roasted garlic and rosemary oil, paired with the 2003 Alexis from Swanson. The dessert course will be Crepes Suzette accompanied by the 2002 Late Harvest Semillon from Swanson. Cost per person is \$85 and reservations are required, to 415/464-8711.

The restaurant is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Noonan's is an urban oasis in the heart of Marin County, explains proprietor Brendan Moylan. "We feature an oak wood grill specializing in contemporary American cuisine, as well as an 85' bar stocked with over 1,000 spirits and many micro-brews."

Founded in 1985 by W. Clarke Swanson, Jr., Swanson Vineyards is the largest Oakville estate producer of Merlot in the Napa Valley, owning 140 acres in Oakville and farming 108 acres of vineyard in two locations in Oakville. The winery's Salon (tasting room) offers an elaborate seated tasting experience in a remarkably distinctive and elegant setting (by appointment only, 707/967-3500 or www.shopswansonsalon.com). Winemaker Chris Phelps studied enology at U.C. Davis and the University of Bordeaux before his tenure as winemaker at Dominus for 12 years and subsequently at Caymus Vineyards, both in Napa Valley, before coming to Swanson.

Swanson is best known for its Merlot, Pinot Grigio and proprietary Cabernet Sauvignon blend, Alexis. Available only at the winery's Salon are Rosato, Sangiovese, Syrah, Petite Sirah, Salon Merlot and Salon Chardonnay. Last spring the winery attracted considerable national attention for its series of seminars and heavily-trafficked website, MerlotFightsBack.com.