

01/28/2008

## **Carneros Land Stewardship Foundation Established**

A new charitable foundation has been formed to fund small scale resource management projects in the Carneros region. The first such effort will be undertaken with the **California Department of Fish & Game (DFG)** and will focus on the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, the state-owned and managed part of the marsh within the Los Carneros region.

"The establishment of the **Carneros Land Stewardship Foundation** will aid in projects to improve the ecosystem that supports a broad range of fish, wildlife and plant species within the Carneros region and encourage sustainable growing practices," said **Steve Sangiacomo**, a founding board member of the foundation and chair of the **Carneros Wine Alliance**.

Emphasis will be given to projects that benefit or restore or conserve the agricultural community of Carneros, once home to large-scale farms that raised sheep, cattle, hay and fruit orchards and now one of the world's most renowned wine grape growing regions. The foundation also plans to fund projects devoted to research dedicated to innovative technologies to manage the region's water resources through more efficient sustainable agricultural practices.

Funding for the foundation is expected to initially be derived from proceeds of the Carneros Wine Alliance's annual trade auction, Pinot Plus, to be held this year on March 29 and the 3rd Annual Carneros Heritage Fest, scheduled for May 31, 2008.

The foundation also expects to receive donations from individuals and corporations interested in its efforts and potentially grants from governmental agencies or other foundations.

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