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Photography Available

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**EAGLE RIDGE RESORT & SPA HOSTS THE WORLD'S BEST IN WINE INDUSTRY
DURING WINE LOVERS' WEEKEND, MARCH 27-29, 2009**

GALENA, Ill. (December 15, 2008) – Wine enthusiasts rejoice! **Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa** will host its most notable food and wine event of the year: **Wine Lovers' Weekend**. From **March 27-29**, guests can partake in a variety of wine-centric events hosted by some of the world's top industry leaders as well as the culinary team at the resort. Located just 150 miles west of Chicago, Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa is an easy weekend destination, where a host of outdoor and indoor activities await guests in this hidden Midwest gem.

Some notable participants of Wine Lover's Weekend include:

- Steve Rued, Director of Winemaking, **Rutherford Wine Company** in Napa Valley, California. Rued graduated with a degree in fermentation science from UC Davis and has worked at wineries including Kenwood Vineyards in California and Stellenbosch Farmer's Winery in South Africa. Steve joined Rutherford Wine Company in 2005 as Director of Winemaking.
- Kate Pritchard of **The Crossings** in Marlborough, New Zealand. Pritchard's experience in the wine industry spans over 13 years in both the domestic and international markets. Prior to joining Ager Sectus Wine Estates, the New Zealand family company which owns The Crossings in 2004, Pritchard worked in Australia where she developed European markets for well known names in the industry.
- Bernard Sparr of **Pierre Sparr** in Alsace, France. Over 25 years in the wine industry, Sparr pairs his savvy in business management, international commerce, technique and oenology with the inherent knowledge that comes from growing up in a winemaking family. He was named CEO of Pierre Sparr in 2007.

Throughout the weekend, Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa will host a variety of food and wine events. The weekend begins with a **Unibroue Craft Brew tasting** followed by the **Grand Tasting** at the Galena Convention Center. Indulge in a chocolate, pastry & port tasting from Eagle Ridge pastry chefs. Oenophile Kate Pritchard will host a **New Zealand-inspired wine dinner** paired with wines from The Crossings while winemaker Bernard Sparr hosts an **Alsatian-inspired luncheon** and a **Crémant d'Alsace brunch** and wine panel with wines from Pierre Sparr. Randy Hoppman, Executive Chef at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa, will host **An Evening Fit For The King: The Escoffier Cabernet Culinary**

Challenge, a culinary showdown to compete for bragging rights as King with wine pairings from Rutherford Wine Company. Wine seminars titled **Wine 101** and **Aromas in the Glass** will be presented by Eagle Ridge's very own Certified Sommeliers Donald Pleau and Steven Curtis. *A schedule of events is available by calling (815) 776-5028 or by visiting www.eagleridge.com.*

Wine Lover's Weekend Package

Guests who are interested in attending this weekend getaway can book a Wine Lovers' Weekend Package that includes two-night accommodations, sponsored meals and beverages, admission to all scheduled wine seminars and tastings, and a ticket to the Grand Tasting Event that takes place at the Galena Convention Center on Friday, March 27. Package rates start at **\$489 per person**, excluding tax, and can be booked by calling Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa at **(800) 892-2269**.

About Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa

Located on 6,800 acres amid the rolling hills of northwestern Illinois, **Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa** is a full-spectrum resort recognized nationally by outlets including *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Midwest Living*, *Travel + Leisure Golf* and *Wine Enthusiast*. The property provides a superior golf experience with 63 holes on four acclaimed courses, as well as three distinctive restaurants, Woodlands Restaurant, Spike's Bar & Grill and Paisanos. Other amenities include the tranquil Stonedrift Spa, which provides a complete sensory experience, and a state-of-the-art fitness center with an indoor/outdoor pool. The property also provides the perfect backdrop to an incredible selection of outdoor activities including miles of biking, hiking and horseback trails, tennis, hot air balloon rides and boating and fishing on the picturesque 220-acre Lake Galena. For reservations or more information call (800) 892-2269 or visit online at www.eagleridge.com.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
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