



**VINTNERS INN A “GREEN HOTEL” —
AWARDED HIGHEST HONOR IN THE GREEN LODGING PROGRAM BY THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA’S DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES**

SANTA ROSA, CA, August 19, 2009 -- Vintners Inn (www.vintnersinn.com) in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County’s premiere wine country destination, has been awarded the Leadership Level in the California Green Lodging Program by the State of California’s Department of General Services. The Leadership Level is the highest level of program participation. Vintners Inn is one of only 100 or so hotels throughout the State of California to have been honored with this award, and only one of three hotels in Santa Rosa.

The Green Lodging Program recognizes those “green hotels” doing their part to keep California green. The program brings together the lodging industry, state travelers and the environment, encouraging the diversion of waste from landfills and the conservation of energy and water, thus providing cleaner air to breathe. The program encourages state travelers to seek out these certified “green hotels” like Vintners Inn.

From the very beginning, owners Don and Rhonda Carano's green philosophy started with the planting of approximately 80 acres of vineyards surrounding Vintners Inn, the time and effort to build a waste treatment system for the property, and the introduction of vegetable and herb gardens, and olive tree orchards, as well as the manicured landscape with flowers and fountains.

“It’s always been our objective to do our part to help protect the environment,” said Rhonda Carano. “We’re so honored to be recognized for our efforts. We’re very proud we can say produce from our sustainable vegetable gardens is used in our from-the-earth-to-the-table menus at Vintners Inn, the Event Center and John Ash & Co.; our living fence of sunflowers is not only functional, but aesthetically pleasing; our reclaimed water system helps cut down on fresh water usage; and we have one small garbage compactor that is picked up once a week in comparison to five recycling bins picked up three times a week – all good examples of how we are doing our part to further our green initiatives.”

Leadership Level hotels like Vintners Inn are required to have a written environmental policy in place, and to meet all seven of the program’s criteria: waste minimization, reuse/recycling, energy efficiency, conservation and management, waste management, freshwater resource management, hazardous materials management, and environmentally and socially sensitive purchasing policies.

“I am so proud of our team here at Vintners Inn,” said General Manager Percy Brandon. “We could not have accomplished this coveted certification without the help and cooperation of many of our employees. Many of the initiatives came directly from line staff in cooperation with management. And, of course, we invite our guests to contribute to our efforts.”

Surrounded by the scenic Northern California landscape, acres of lush vineyards, and beautifully landscaped grounds with courtyards and fountains, Vintners Inn is located just 60 miles north of San Francisco in the heart of Sonoma County wine country. Vintners Inn has 44 luxurious rooms and suites, a state-of-the-art Event Center, the renowned John Ash & Co. restaurant, and The Front Room Bar & Lounge.

For additional information about the California Green Lodging Program, please visit www.travel.dgs.ca.gov/lodging/greenlodging.