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**JOHN ASH & CO. ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION OF EXECUTIVE CHEF JEFFREY MADURA  
AND INTRODUCES NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF THOMAS SCHMIDT**

SANTA ROSA, CA, June 23, 2008— After 20 years at the helm of the kitchen, Executive Chef Jeffrey Madura has announced he will be leaving John Ash & Co. restaurant due to health issues in his family. After a long and successful tenure producing creative cuisine prepared from locally-grown, seasonal, fresh ingredients, Jeffrey has decided to spend time with his wife Diana and son Josh and has no immediate plans for re-joining any other restaurant operation at this time. Don and Rhonda Carano, owners of John Ash & Co., Vintners Inn and Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery, are saddened by this situation; however they support Madura in his decision.

“It has been an honor and privilege to work for Don and Rhonda Carano and to represent John Ash & Co. for the past two decades,” said Madura. “Sonoma County is an incredible area, the jewel of California wine country. Throughout the years, I have had the pleasure of getting to know so many talented and passionate people; local farmers, fishermen, winemakers, and artisan purveyors. To work with such talented people is the kind of opportunity most Chefs only dream about. I would like to also thank John Ash for the opportunity and encouragement he has given me. John has been and continues to be a trusted friend and mentor. The restaurant will always have a special place in my heart and I am so grateful for all it has brought into my life.”

“We deeply appreciate all of the contributions Jeffrey has made to John Ash & Co. over the past years,” said Don Carano. “Although Jeffrey has decided to leave the employ of John Ash & Co., he will always be considered part of our family.”

“Jeffrey has been an integral part of shaping Sonoma County’s interpretation of Wine Country-Inspired Cuisine at John Ash & Co., and we will truly miss him,” adds Rhonda Carano. “Jeffrey’s friendly, approachable personality has always made our customers feel at home at John Ash. Jeffrey always went above and beyond creating a truly memorable dining experience for the guests with his unique presentation of food and flavor combinations.”

Don and Rhonda Carano have appointed Tom Schmidt as the new Executive Chef at John Ash & Co. Schmidt, originally from California, began his passion for fine cuisine in the Bay Area before traveling in Europe and opening his own highly-regarded restaurant, Topaz, in Bremen, Germany, famous for its small plates of German, French, and Italian cuisines.

“I am thrilled and excited that Don and Rhonda Carano have given me this opportunity to draw on my experience in multi-cultural cuisine, in a perfect environment of abundance in the garden setting of Sonoma County,” said Schmidt. “Cooking without borders for the exquisite pleasure of soul-satisfying food... that’s what I hope to do.”

John Ash & Co. restaurant will continue to provide outstanding cuisine and service through the transition. Madura’s last day at John Ash & Co. will be July 31, 2008.

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**Percy Brandon - General Manager**

Vintners Inn - John Ash & Co. Restaurant - The Front Room Bar & Lounge - Vintners Inn Event Center  
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