

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TOAST OF THE TOWN: EIGHT MASTER SOMMELIERS TO  
TAKE PART IN 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KAPALUA WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL**

**KAPALUA, MAUI, HAWAII, July 7, 2005** - What do you get when you put eight of the world's top wine experts in one room? A lot of swirling, a lot of sniffing, a lot of sipping and a glorious Toast of the Town. Eight Master Sommeliers (MS), including host Fred Dame, MS, will team up at the world-renowned Kapalua Resort for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Kapalua Wine & Food Festival (KWFF), July 7-10.

Joining Dame for this year's festival theme, "A Journey to the New World," an exploration of the fine food and wine regions with special emphasis on the bold and compelling wines of the New World, will be Richard Betts (*Montagna at The Little Nell*, Aspen); Jay Fletcher (*Southern Wine and Spirits*, Aspen); Chuck Furuya (*Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi Bar and Vino*, Kapalua); Virginia Philip (*The Breakers Hotel*, Palm Beach); William Sherer (*Aureole Restaurant*, Las Vegas); Alpana Singh (*Everest*, Chicago); and Larry Stone (*Rubicon*, San Francisco).

Throughout the four-day festival, the sommeliers will share their expertise and passion for wine at the following events:

- **Friday, July 8; 12:30pm-2:00pm Chef Bev Gannon Cooking Demonstration, The Ritz-Carlton (Ritz)** - Chef Bev Gannon, of the award-winning Hali'imaile General Store, prepares

her famous Pacific Rim Cuisine paired with premium wine selections. Featuring Master Sommeliers Fred Dame, Richard Betts, Virginia Philips and Brian Julyan, CEO Worldwide Court of Master Sommeliers.

- more -

**TOAST OF THE TOWN: EIGHT MASTER SOMMELIERS TO  
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PAGE 2**

- **Friday, July 8; 3:00pm-4:30pm *All Star Cabernet Vertical, Ritz*** - Taking center stage will be vintages from all-star producers Jordan Vineyards & Winery, Lokoya Winery and Penfolds Vineyards and Winery. Featuring Master Sommeliers Virginia Philip, Alpana Singh, Larry Stone and winemakers Chris Carpenter of Lokoya, Rob Davis of Jordan and Penfolds director of education, Matt Lane.
- **Friday, July 8, 5:30pm-9:00pm *The Grand Tasting, Kapalua Bay Hotel (KBH)*** - At the "Sommelier's Choice" tent, the wine wizards will be sharing their featured vintages, showcasing world-class wines from more than 150 wineries and the fine cuisine of KBH. Other themed tents include "Down Under" - On Top, Summertime Wines, Tour of California, Wines of the Pacific Northwest, Wines of the Mediterranean, New Regions Discovered, Sparkling Wine from Around the World and Old World Classics.
- **Saturday, July 9; 10:00pm-11:30am *Master Sommelier 102 - Tasting Wine the Masters Way, KBH*** An interactive tasting where guests learn to use the Master Sommelier tasting grid and identify wines to compete in a blind tasting. Featuring Master Sommeliers Fred Dame, Jay Fletcher and Larry Stone.
- **Saturday, July 9; 12:30pm-2:00pm *Chef J. Joho Cooking Demonstration, Ritz***

Featuring the culinary creations of Chef J. Joho, Chef/Proprietor of Everest, Brasserie Jo and Eiffel Tower Restaurant in Chicago. Master Sommeliers Fred Dame, Jay Fletcher, Chuck Furuya and Alpana Singh will discuss wine pairings.

- **Saturday, July 9; 3:00pm-4:30pm *The America's Cup - "Down Under" versus America*, KBH** - This interactive audience tasting pits Australia and New Zealand wineries against their American counterparts. Featuring Master Sommeliers Fred Dame, Richard Betts, Jay Fletcher, William Sherer and winemakers Sophie Daniels, *Chehalem*, Michael Scholz, *Wattle Creek Winery* and Matt Lane, *Penfolds*.

-more-

**TOAST OF THE TOWN: EIGHT MASTER SOMMELIERS TO  
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**PAGE 3**

- **Saturday, July 9; times vary *Winemaker Dinners*, at six restaurant locations in Kapalua Resort** - Those include The Banyan Tree, Ritz; Kapalua Bay Hotel; Pineapple Grill; Plantation House; Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi Bar and Vino; (*reservations required, please call directly to book.*)
- **Sunday, July 10; 10:00am-11:30am *"Sparkling" Sunday*, KBH** - Sparkling wines and champagnes featuring Master Sommeliers Fred Dame, Alpana Singh, Richard Betts, Virginia Philip and William Sherer.
- **Sunday, July 10; 12:30pm-2:00pm *Chef Michael Mina Cooking Demonstration*, Ritz** - Chef Mina of Charles Nob Hill, Aqua and Pisces will prepare sumptuous dishes paired with fine wines. Featuring Master Sommeliers Fred Dame, Virginia Philip and William Sherer.
- **Sunday, July 10; 3:00pm-4:30pm *"Around the World in Eight Wines & Cheeses"*, KBH** - Cheese Expert Kent Torrey of

The Cheese Shop in Carmel, California leads a tasting of the world's finest cheeses accented with wine selections of host Fred Dame, MS.

- **Sunday, July 10; 5:30pm-9:00pm *The Kapalua Seafood Festival, Ritz*** - Delectable seafood dishes prepared by fifteen of Hawaii's top chefs complemented by premier wine selections of host Fred Dame, MS. Hawaiian entertainment will top off this memorable four-day festival.

This year over 150 wineries will be sharing their finest vintages with festival attendees throughout the weekend. A few notables from the impressive list include Joseph Phelps and Justin Vineyards, Moët & Chandon, Silver Oak, Beringer Blass Wine Estates and Stag's Leap Winery. For a full list of participating wineries, please visit [www.kapaluamaui.com](http://www.kapaluamaui.com).

-more-

**TOAST OF THE TOWN: EIGHT MASTER SOMMELIERS TO  
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PAGE 4**

#### **ABOUT THE KAPALUA WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL**

From its debut as a small wine symposium on Maui in 1981, KWFF has evolved into an epicurean extravaganza that draws thousands of food and wine aficionados to West Maui each year. The four-day event is the longest-running festival of its kind in Hawaii and lauded as one of the best in the country. Event organizers hand-select the participating wineries and chefs, and have them showcase only their most revered, reserved vintages and products.

Host Fred L. Dame is the first American to serve as president of the Court of Master Sommeliers Worldwide, and assists restaurateurs and hoteliers in developing their wine programs. In his role as director of fine wine for Allied

Domecq Wines USA. Dame is also active in the culinary arts, serving as an honorary trustee of the American Academy of Chefs, the honor society of the American Culinary Federation.

Past participants include Joel Aiken, Nunzio Alioto, Ted Balestreri, Bob Bertheau, Pio Boffa, Sam Choy, Dan Duckhorn, Leonardo Frescobaldi, Louis Martini, Robert Mondavi, Bradley Ogden, Rodney Strong, Jeremiah Tower, Ming Tsai, Joseph Ward, Alan Wong, Roy Yamaguchi and Alex Trebeck, to name a few.

The Grand Tasting on Friday, July 8 also features a silent auction with proceeds benefiting the Art School at Kapalua, Maui Preparatory Academy and the Maui Community College Culinary Arts Program

KWFF is sponsored by American Express and FIJI Natural Artesian Water. For event tickets, please call toll-free Kapalua Resort at 866-669-2440 or visit [www.kapaluamaui.com](http://www.kapaluamaui.com).

-more-

**TOAST OF THE TOWN: EIGHT MASTER SOMMELIERS TO  
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PAGE 5**

**- ABOUT KAPALUA -**

The Kapalua Resort is a 23,000-acre master-planned resort community set amidst a working pineapple plantation on Maui's northwest coast. The resort is renowned for its three world-class golf courses - The Bay, The Village and The Plantation; ten residential communities; two premier hotels - The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua and the Kapalua Bay Hotel; a villa rental program, The Kapalua Villas; a luxury home rental program, Kapalua Luxury Homes; a tennis complex; three white sand beaches; and a myriad of restaurants and shops. Kapalua

Resort hosts four signature events each year, the PGA TOUR's season-opening Mercedes Championships in January, The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua's Celebration of the Arts Festival in March, the Kapalua Food & Wine Festival in July, and LifeFest Kapalua in September. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-KAPALUA or visit the web site at [www.kapaluamaui.com](http://www.kapaluamaui.com).

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