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ANDREW LANE WINES RELEASES URBAN ELEGANCE WITH 2005 MERLOT

Emeryville, CA – Renowned for its flagship Gamay Beaujolais, Andrew Lane Wines announces the release of its 2005 Napa Valley Merlot, a wine of grace that celebrates the elegant capabilities of California fruit. Low in alcohol and high on spice, the grapes hail from a prized vineyard situated behind the St. Helena Library, where locals walk their dogs along trails in the heart of Napa Valley. Forget *terroir*. You can taste the terrier in this French-style beauty. Doesn't get more sustainable than that.

The Dickson family has been crafting limited-production wines of distinction from the legendary St. Helena appellation for 30 years. This Merlot is no exception. Rich and deep yet extremely balanced, the earthy wine is black as night in the glass and displays aromas of tobacco and leather, much like the scent of those old, bound library books. In the mouth, it's briary, with lush, dark fruits, tar, and a finish like an old-fashioned baseball pitching duel. Imagine it: the fresh-cut grass, a glove's smooth leather, the chewing tobacco. Even the player's eyeblack, streaked to reflect the sun's glare, matches the Merlot's glint.

That All-American spirit is alive in Andrew Lane's pioneering winemaking process. The family hauls tons of prized Napa Valley grapes to their urban winery over Highway 80 in morning rush hour mere hours after they were picked off the vines in St. Helena. Among the snaking traffic, these bright bins of purple love bring the farm to market, and the dirt to the city, where it belongs.

Located in an old WWII submarine repair facility near Oakland, the wines of Andrew Lane are made to be enjoyed beyond restaurant lists and wine country scenery. If wine is of the earth and brings people together, it belongs in the far more diverse urban landscape, where such philosophies inspire religious-like movements – not wine country casual. Second-generation vintners Andrew and Lane Dickson grew up with wine as a catalyst for discussion and friendship at the family dinner table. They hope their wines do the same for you.

**Winemaking Notes:** Hang time in 2005 was the longest on record for many in Napa and led to the intense flavors and soft texture found in this Merlot. The wine was blended with six percent Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon for girth and six percent Lodi Petite Verdot for those hypnotic aromatics. It was then aged and softened in new oak using French staves. Alcohol is low at 12.7 percent. Production is 900 cases. The wine is a steal at \$17.

**About Andrew Lane Wines:** Andrew Lane is a small, sustainable, family-run winery that began in St. Helena, CA. With their move to Emeryville in 2005, the Dickson family now celebrates the progressive nature of the urban wine experience as a member of the thriving East Bay Vintners Alliance. Andrew Lane draws fruit from some of the finest vineyards in the Napa Valley, specializing in an Oakville-hillside Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Gamay Noir, Petite Sirah and Merlot. The winery was founded by David Dickson in 1978 and named after his two sons, Andrew and Lane. For more information, visit [www.andrewlanewines.com](http://www.andrewlanewines.com).

