



A TASTE OF CALIFORNIA



napa valley vintners



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## FIRST-EVER CALIFORNIA WINE SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD IN HAVANA, CUBA

### 100 California Vintners to Participate in Historic Trade Mission

February 2016 (Havana, Cuba) – 100 California winemaker’s are traveling to Cuba to participate in the first-ever California Wine Symposium taking place February 1-2, 2016. Coordinating this effort is the Sonoma based U.S. CAVA Exports (USCE), founded in 2014 by Darius Anderson. USCE is dedicated to assisting U.S. based companies in the sales of products such as wine to the island nation of Cuba.

“I am pleased to be leading this vintner delegation on the precedent setting California wine trade mission,” says USCE founder Darius Anderson. “The time is right and the interest is unprecedented, especially among the growing community of privately-owned family-run restaurants known as paladares, and the hoteliers who serve the rapidly expanding Cuban tourist market.”

The California Wine Symposium builds on the relationships and enthusiasm for California wines generated by the first Cuban Sommelier delegation visit to California in 2014, sponsored by many of the organizers of this year’s California Wine Symposium. The Symposium, which will bring together vintners and wines from throughout the Golden State with sommeliers, restaurateurs, chefs, hotel managers importers and distributors in Cuba, is sponsored by USCE in partnership with the Wine Institute, the Napa Valley Vintners, the Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers and the Sonoma County Vintners.

Joel Peterson, founder of Ravenswood Winery in Sonoma, California and a member of the 100 vintner delegation states that “the California Wine Symposium signals the new possibilities within reach since the opening of relations between the U.S. and Cuba. We are ready to bring California wines to the Cuban market and we can’t wait to introduce the wide range of wines California has to offer during this historic event.”

The California Wine Symposium will include a Grand Tasting at the Hotel Palco Convention Center in Havana, February 2, 2016 and seminar presentations featuring information about California wine country and California wines ready to export. In addition to the two-day California Wine Symposium, the California delegates will conduct market survey research and receive briefings about the current wine and import/export market in Cuba.

For more information on the California Wine Symposium or US CAVA Exports please contact Steve Burns at (707) 217-6327 or U.S. Cava Exports at [info@uscavaexports.com](mailto:info@uscavaexports.com).