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For Immediate Release

Modesto Silkwood Syrah selected by Japan Airlines

John Monnich of Silkwood Wines, Modesto, California announced today Silkwood's 2001 Syrah from partner Rodney Beard's Stanislaus grapes along the Tuolumne River has been selected the best red wine of all US and international red wines judged in four tastings by Japan Airlines.

Of the twelve red wines judged in the "blind" tastings Silkwood's 2001 Syrah was the only American red wine selected as an addition to their First Class Wine List.

Due to increasing popularity of premium wines, JAL has signed a consulting contract with a leading wine journalist, Fuinko Arisaka, editor of Vineteque, a premium wine magazine, to review unique wines. JAL's wine list has been selected winner in four categories including Best First Class Cellar by Cellars in the Sky Awards. Most of JAL's first class stewardesses are certified sommeliers. Japan Airlines flies to 34 countries serving 206 destinations.

Monnich said, "contrary to what some expert wine people say from the highly visible wine producing areas of California, it is obvious that Central California wine grapes can produce world class wines comparable to Central and North Coast vineyards."

Stanislaus County is considered a premium wine grape growing area. Local grapes can have a longer "hang time" which brings grapes to complete maturity rather than "forced" maturity of grapes in most coastal areas. Small Central Valley wineries are capable of producing gold and double gold quality wines as Silkwood has from well managed vineyards utilizing state of art wine making and special wood techniques.

Silkwood's prominent red velvet label was an added benefit in JAL's final selection.

Monnich can be contacted at www.silkwoodwines.com