California dreamin’
11-1-07
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

If imitation is the truest form of flattery, California operators of inns, hotels and wineries should consider the opening of new Wine Country Inn in Palisade, CO, in August 2008 an homage of the highest order.

Owners Richard and Jean Tally drew heavily from places they stayed or visited in California’s varied wine regions over the past 10 years.

“There were so many good ideas everywhere we went, we took notes, talked to people and made lots of pictures,” explains Jean. “We were especially impressed with the SummerWood Inn (formerly the Arbor Inn) and Justin Winery in Paso Robles, the new Santa Ynez Inn and Gainey Winery in Santa Ynez, Fess Parker’s Inn and winery in Los Olivos and the Cheshire Cat Bed and Breakfast in Santa Barbara.”

There were other standouts, including the new Talley Winery (no relation) in the Arroyo Grande Valley. She says they were impressed with how well the Apple Farm in San Luis Obispo handled groups and marketed their property online. John Ash & Company Restaurant and the Vintners Inn in Santa Rosa were highlights of an earlier trip.
But it probably was the flavor of the simple farmhouse architecture in Healdsburg that prompted them to wonder aloud why the same sort of melding of history, agriculture, wines, food and lodging wouldn’t work in Colorado’s fledgling wine country.

Colorado’s vintners have come of age over the years producing more subtle and sophisticated wines, so the timing seemed right in October 2006 when the Tallys bought 7 1/2 acres of vineyard from Grande River Winery owners Steve and Naomi Smith at public auction.

“The stars finally aligned,” Jean quips.

“We tried to borrow the best features we saw in California and super-impose them on a larger hotel model to have economy of scale so we could keep the room rates reasonable,” Richard says. “Since we are not located near a large metro area like San Francisco or Los Angeles, we can’t command the same rates as California operators.”

The Tallys plan to operate the new hotel independently.

The Wine Country Inn, will be an 80 room property consisting of three main buildings flanking a landscaped courtyard with an outdoor pool, spa, and pavilion. The design echoes clusters of farm buildings typical of much of the turn of the century architecture in the area.

Architect Jim Johnson, whose firm JG Johnson Architects, designed the project, calls the style “farmhouse vernacular.” He points to wrap-around porches, gables and wood siding as typical design elements.

The Tallys say they wanted to evoke the Victorian feel of so many farm homes across America in small towns like Palisade.

“We wanted these buildings to look like they belong here, and we think the architects have done a wonderful job of giving a current interpretation to the Victorian farmhouse look,” Richard says. “The interiors, however, will be far from Spartan, with great attention given to comfort in both the public areas and guest rooms.”

Facing the I-70 corridor, the one and a half story Reception Building will house the public areas: lobby and front desk, breakfast/wine tasting room, catering kitchen, large and small meeting rooms, business center, gift shop, public rest rooms, offices, laundry and service, mechanical and storage spaces.
South of the Reception Building, the three story Guest House, will include 72 king and queen rooms, including ADA compliant accommodations. An elevator will serve that building.

On the East side of the complex, a Suites Building will offer several configurations for the remaining eight rooms. This two-story structure will cater to corporate retreats and meetings, bridal parties, family reunions and other small group oriented functions.

“We are ready to roll,” says Richard. “We hope to complete the project next spring with a target opening date of August. There are a lot of variables, so we want to make sure we can deliver what we promise. We are compiling a priority list of people who have inquired about rooms and will begin booking reservations after January. If we open sooner, we will notify everyone in our database.”

Besides the architects, other principals on the project are The Wright Group, general contractors; Ground Logic, landscape architects; Rolland Engineers, (civil); Redwine Engineers, (structural); ME Group, (mechanical and electrical), and Design Force, interior design.

More information is available on the hotel web site, www.coloradowinecountryinn.com, or by calling 1-888-855-8330.

#####

**For more information, please call:**
Jean Tally @970-270-3270
Or
Cobb and Associates, Inc. @970-242-7674