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ENO AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, LAGUNA NIGUEL ANNOUNCES ENO-VERSITY CLASSES FOR THE WINTER-SPRING SESSION

LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA – December 9, 2008 – **ENO**, Southern California's premiere wine, cheese and chocolate tasting room located at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, continues to host the popular Eno-Versity classes. Renowned winemakers and chocolatiers join ENO staff in leading Eno-Versity classes through an exploration of the histories, types and pairings of exquisite wines and chocolates. The intimate classes allow both novice and expert participants alike to interact and learn from the experts.

Eno-Versity's spring session schedule includes the following classes:

- **January 10, 2009 – Chocolate 101 with Tracey Downey, Downey's Chocolates**
Learn about the history of chocolate and its similarities to wine. Watch as local award winning Chocolatier Tracey Downey takes the whole cocoa bean and turns it into eating chocolate. Participate in a chocolate tasting and discussion on cacao percentages. You will take home an expanded appreciation for chocolate, samples of our handmade chocolates as well as your chocolate tasting journal.
- **January 24, 2009 – Judd's Hill Tasting with Winemaker Judd Finkelstein**
Artisanal. Small. Hands on. Family. Nestled in the Napa Valley. These are the hallmarks of Judd's Hill Winery, the life work of Art and Bunnie Finkelstein and their son Judd and his wife Holly. The idea at Judd's Hill is that great fruit makes fine wine and we want that fact to show through. To that end, they use oak subtly, keep the alcohols at moderate levels and blend carefully, among other techniques. They let the grape shine, which results in wonderful wines of true varietal characteristics.
- **February 14, 2009 – Hands on Truffle Making with Tracey Downey, Downey's Chocolates**
Come and enjoy the ultimate Valentines Day as you make your own truffles during this hands-on class with Tracey Downey. You will learn about ganache, chocolate tempering, dipping and decorating. You will take home all of the truffles you make during this class. Bring your special someone or show up and make a new friend...
- **March 14, 2009 – Entertaining with Chocolate with Tracey Downey, Downey's Chocolates**
Join Tracey Downey and her guest Diana Von Welanetz Wentworth, author of several award winning cookbooks including; *The Pleasure of your Company*, *Celebrations* and *The Chicken Soup for the Soul Cookbook*. Diana and Tracey will guide you through entertaining with an emphasis on chocolate, start with savory chocolate appetizers, pairing suggestions and bite sized chocolate desserts. You will take home valuable information to help you through your next entertaining event.

Eno-Versity classes are held in the ENO tasting room, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and are \$35 per person. Only a limited number of participants are allowed at Eno-Versity classes and guests must sign-up by calling The Ritz-Carlton reservation desk at (949) 240-5008.

ENO is located at the renowned The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, at One Ritz-Carlton Drive, along California's scenic Pacific Coast Highway in Dana Point. For more information please call Resort Services at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel at (949) 240-2000 or visit www.ENOwinerooms.com.

About ENO - ENO, an upscale wine tasting room is the ideal destination for the appreciation and pairing of the finest wines in the world, with artisanal cheeses from around the globe and hand-crafted chocolates. ENO's unpretentious and socially inviting approach to oenological exploration offers guests an interactive and educational experience. The design of ENO's communal tables is intended to encourage friendly conversation and discussion as guests interact with one another and the sommelier, through their indulgence of these three prized delicacies. Tasting note cards are provided at each table and guests are invited to keep them for future reference.

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