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**January Winemaker Dinner at Firehouse Restaurant Hosts Jeff Mangahas of Hartford Family Winery**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – The January 29 Winemaker Dinner at The Firehouse Restaurant in Old Sacramento will host Jeff Mangahas, the talent behind the Russian River Valley’s Hartford Family Winery.

As winemaker at the Hartford Family Winery, Mangahas provides the skill, drive and passion behind Hartford’s “high-risk, high reward” approach to making delicious wines with exceptional personality. He started his career as a cancer research scientist in New York City, where visits to the city’s abundant restaurants nurtured his interest in wine. Visits to the wine regions of France turned his interest into a passion, and he eventually left his research science career behind and enrolled in the UC Davis winemaking program, earning an M.S. in enology in 2003.

In 2006, Mangahas joined Hartford, which is renowned for producing wine from grapes harvested at vineyards in difficult locations. Many of them are located in cooler appellations, ideal for Pinot Noirs and its other single-vineyard and limited bottlings that include Chardonnays and old-vine Zinfandels. Some bottlings are as small as 80 to 100 cases. Founded in 1993, Hartford Family wines have won numerous awards, are regularly covered in wine magazines and have been served at the White House.

To learn more about Mangahas and the Hartford Family Winery, visit [www.hartfordwines.com](http://www.hartfordwines.com).

The Jan. 29 Winemaker Dinner will feature a full selection of Hartford Family Winery offerings, each expertly matched with each of seven courses served at the Friday night Wine Dinner January 29. The menu spans a second course of seafood croustade, followed by a winter salad, pancetta-wrapped monkfish for a fourth course, a fifth course of beef tenderloin croquette, and a dessert choice and then a selection of artisanal cheeses served in the Firehouse wine cellar.

To view the full menu, visit The Firehouse online at [www.FirehouseOldSac.com](http://www.FirehouseOldSac.com).

The Friday, Jan. 29th Winemaker Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. and is limited to 24 guests. The cost for each guest is \$145 and reservations are required.

The Firehouse is named in Zagat “America’s Top Restaurants 2009” and is a recipient of the 2009 Fodor’s Choice distinction, included among the highest 15 percent of all restaurants listed in the international guide as recommended destinations for travelers. Additionally, the California Restaurant Association named The Firehouse wine list best for Californian wines in the state for restaurants with less than 10 locations. The Firehouse has also earned the coveted Best of Award of Excellence from *Wine Spectator* for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in 2009, and was voted Best Wine List, Best Service, Best Special Occasion and Best Outdoor Dining among other awards by the Subscribers of *Sacramento Magazine* in 2008 and 2009.

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