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Virginia Wine Experience Opening at The Omni Homestead Resort
Special guest Gabriele Rausee, the Father of Modern-Day Virginia Wine

Hot Springs, VA (November 10, 2021) – Long recognized for outstanding culinary offerings, The Omni Homestead Resort is adding to its portfolio with the opening of the Virginia Wine Experience. Located near the resort’s grand Dining Room, the Virginia Wine Experience will debut on Friday, November 12. The multi-faceted facility will focus solely on the wines of the Commonwealth.

This exciting new venue will showcase the history of winegrowing in Virginia from the founding of Jamestown in 1607 through today. Here, guests can select from distinct wine flights or wines by the glass at the Tasting Bar, with bottles available for purchase. Each month, a prominent Virginia winery will be profiled, and guests will have the opportunity to meet with the winery owner/vintner, attend a seminar or enjoy an exclusive, private dinner which will be complimented with wines from the featured winery.

“When I arrived at the property and started researching for a new element that would enhance our guest experience, it didn’t take long to realize that the ideal endeavor should focus on Virginia wines. The history of Virginia wine making dates back even longer than our 255-year history and I thought The Homestead, with its rich Virginia history, was the perfect consolidated location where people could learn, taste and explore the Virginia wine industry,” said Mark Spadoni, managing director for The Homestead. “Our guests come from all around the world and we are excited to introduce them to the incredible, high quality wines from Virginia.”

Well-known wine industry executive Fred Reno, CEO & president of [Thomas Jefferson Wine Company](#), has been retained as the consulting project manager to curate this new initiative and connect the resort with Virginia’s top wineries. Reno will also assist in training Homestead associates and developing signature wine events at the resort.

“I have been a regular guest of The Homestead resort for more than 40 years and it has been a meaningful part of my family’s life,” added Reno. “I am incredibly honored and

humbled to have been chosen to work with the management team here to help create this historic and exciting addition showcasing Virginia wine.”

To celebrate the opening weekend of the Virginia Wine Experience, the resort will welcome Gabriele Rausse of Gabriele Rausse Winery. Known as the father of modern-day winemaking in Virginia, Rausse came to Virginia from his native Italy in 1976 and helped establish Barboursville Vineyards with Italy’s well-respected Zonin winegrowing family. Since then, he has been involved with numerous wineries in the Commonwealth and founded his namesake winery in 1997. Throughout the weekend, he will welcome guests, sign bottles, and host a private dinner featuring his wines. On Saturday, Rausse will present a seminar on Virginia wines which Reno will moderate.

The Virginia Wine Experience will be a permanent fixture at the resort with ongoing special events such as a Spring Wine Festival, educational seminars, and tastings of some of Virginia’s most limited and unique wines.

In 2022, The Homestead plans to expand the Virginia Wine Experience to include a dedicated wine education center. Through exhibits, interactive displays and a self-guided tour, this facility will provide an in-depth look at Virginia’s incredible wine industry.

For more information about the Virginia Wine Experience at The Homestead, go to www.theomnihomestead.com or call 540-839-1766.

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About The Omni Homestead Resort

Welcoming travelers since 1766, The Omni Homestead Resort is one of America's most iconic resorts, offering genuine hospitality and memorable experiences in a 2,300-acre setting within the Allegheny Mountains of southwestern Virginia. The resort is distinguished by 483 guest rooms and suites, 72,000 square feet of meeting space, an array of fine and casual dining choices, and more than 30 recreational activities. An expansive, luxurious spa with an exclusive, adults-only Serenity Garden and two championship golf courses including The Cascades, one of the nation's finest mountain courses, are among the resort’s most sought-after amenities. Family-friendly attractions such as a ski area, Equestrian Center, Shooting Club, falconry, mountain biking trails, water slides and lazy river are also available. The Homestead became part of Omni Hotels & Resorts on July 1, 2013.