



PLANTING of LARGEST ALBARIÑO VINEYARD in NORTH AMERICA NOW UNDERWAY

tangent Solidifies Commitment to Alternative Whites in the Edna Valley

San Luis Obispo, CA - May 22, 2007 - The Niven family, owners of **tangent**, has carved out 55 acres of their renowned Paragon Vineyard in the Edna Valley to dedicate to albariño, making it the largest vineyard planted to the varietal in the U.S. Eight acres of grüner veltliner, and six acres of grenache blanc are being planted simultaneously. These varietals will join the line-up of alternative white wines grown or produced by **tangent**: viognier, riesling, pinot blanc, pinot gris, and sauvignon blanc.

"We created **tangent** to fill a specific niche," says John H. Niven, who along with his cousin Michael Blaney, represents the pioneering winegrape growing family's third generation. "We rolled out the first vintage last year. Our research showed that America was ready for a brand dedicated to cool-climate alternative white wines, so we expected it to do well. What we didn't realize was how receptive the market would be to the more esoteric varietals like albariño; it took off like a shot and sold out in just a few months. We have decided to commit, in a big way, to albariño and a few other alternative whites. Some think we're crazy; we think America's ready so we're taking the leap."

Albariño's native land, the Rías Baixas region of Galicia in Spain, has a similar climate to the Edna Valley. It is bordered on two sides by the Atlantic Ocean, keeping conditions cool and temperate, never hot and never too cold. The Edna Valley, home to both **tangent** and Paragon Vineyard, is only four miles from the Pacific Ocean. A unique east/west valley funnels fog and cool breezes from the Morro Bay directly to the mouth of the Edna Valley, keeping temperatures moderate. Both regions benefit from a long growing season culminating in fully developed fruit at harvest.

"**tangent** is about white wines of true varietal character, with good acid structure and lower alcohol levels that go well with a wide variety of foods," says Winemaker Christian Roguenant. "Albariño fits in nicely. The Edna Valley mirrors the Rías Baixas from a cool-climate standpoint, ultimately allowing me to produce an albariño with a similar compound profile to that of Galicia. The lime blossom-tangerine aromatic is the tell-tale characteristic."

The Nivens aren't stopping with albariño, grüner veltliner and grenache blanc. They are considering planting other varietals from cool-climate regions, anywhere in the world. Currently on the table are loureira, godello and treixadura, all Galician varietals.

tangent is the only domestic wine brand to focus solely on producing alternative white wines. Made of grapes grown primarily in the Edna Valley of California, each finished wine shows lively acidity, minerality and varietal character. Vinted without the use of any sort of oak influence, and bottled with screwcap closures, **tangent** wines are meant to be enjoyed when young and fresh. Created by third generation Edna Valley grapegrowing pioneers John Niven and Michael Blaney, along with veteran winemaker Christian Roguenant, **tangent's** second vintage was just released in May, 2007. The Niven family also owns and operates Baileyana Winery, producing Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah from their estate Firepeak Vineyard in the Edna Valley.

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a departure from the ordinary, **tangent** explores the limitless possibilities of alternative white wines