

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



STEVE LEDSON DONATES \$15,000 TO SONOMA FFA

SONOMA, CA (November 26, 2013) – Fifth generation winemaker, philanthropist and Sonoma farmer **Steve Ledson** (www.ledson.com) and his family are thrilled to donate \$15,000 to the Sonoma **FFA (Future Farmers of America)** program at Sonoma Valley High School. The donation comes from proceeds generated from August and September receipts from the **Centre du Vin**, (www.centreduvin.com) the popular restaurant at the Ledson Hotel (www.ledsonhotel.com) on the historic Sonoma Plaza.

Steve and his father Noble Ledson went to Santa Rosa High School and were members of the FFA as well. Noble was also on the Santa Rosa High School Dairy Cattle Judging team which went to nationals in Kansas City where they earned first place in 1935. “Being a member of FFA gave me a way of life that has served me well,” said Steve. “Because of that, I wanted to give something back to this organization.” Ledson added, “We are first and foremost a farming community and this program which educates and guides Sonoma youth into agriculture should be applauded.”

The FFA is a youth organization that provides students opportunities to gain leadership skills and career skills. Students take part in student officer teams that lead the organization and participate in leadership conferences and meetings throughout the state. They also participate in various judging teams such as vine pruning, ag mechanics, landscape and best informed green hand.

The agriculture program at Sonoma Valley High School has two agri-science classrooms, an ag mechanics shop classroom and a school farm that includes livestock facilities, a greenhouse and a vineyard of wine grapes. Students use these facilities to practice hands-on

skills learned in classes as well as participate in supervised agriculture experience projects and career development events.

The **Ledson Hotel's Centre du Vin** offers French bistro fare with a seasonal menu focused on dishes created from a variety of locally grown and produced specialties. Sidewalk seating allows dining al fresco with a full view of the bustling Sonoma Plaza. Guests can enjoy a full bar and a selection of local **Sonoma Valley** wineries, not to mention the families **Ledson Winery** and **Zina Hyde Cunningham** wines. Visitors are invited to taste award-winning Zina Hyde Cunningham wines from 10am – 9pm. The **Centre du Vin** has also been host to an eclectic list of musical acts such as **Jeff Bridges, Jefferson Starship, Jonathan Poretz and Luna Itzel**.

The Ledson Hotel and Centre Du Vin are located at 480 First St. East, Sonoma. The hotel made the *Conde Nast Traveler 2004 Hot List*: One of the 100 hottest new hotels around the globe, one of the top 18 hotels in the US, and one of the only 2 hotels in California. *New York Times*, August, 2010 opined, “If you have only 36 hours to spend in Sonoma County you might follow these suggestions and stay at the **Ledson Hotel...**”

For more information, www.ledsonhotel.com or 707-996-9779.

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