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EVANS & TATE TO SHOWCASE CHARDONNAY

Mr Franklin Tate, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Evans & Tate Limited announced today the Company's intention to undertake a 5 year project to develop an icon Margaret River Chardonnay.

For the Margaret River wine producer the objective is to showcase the region to the world and provide Evans & Tate with an icon wine in a portfolio already subject to national and international acclaim.

Mr Tate said, "Following our "Best Red Best Shiraz" award at the 1999 Japan Wine Challenge and the "Best Red Wine of the Show" awards at the 2000 London International Wine Challenge and at the 2001 Hong Kong Wine Challenge, Evans & Tate Limited can arguably claim to produce a Shiraz which is one of the world's best. Our aim now is to produce one of the world's best Chardonnays as well".

The project will initially involve intensive sampling and data collection progressing to viticultural field trials in the best vineyards available in the region.

Mr Tate said, "The goal of the Chardonnay project is to identify viticultural practices that optimise the development of flavour, complexity and intensity in the Chardonnay variety.

"In the long term Evans & Tate will identify and develop the best site, the best clonal scion and rootstock material as well as refining small batch fruit processing techniques to produce a world class Chardonnay."

Chief Winemaker, Mr Steve Warne said, "The world market is really starting to take notice of Australian Chardonnay. I am extremely excited to be launching this project as it reinforces Evans & Tate's commitment to the Margaret River region and its market position as a premium wine producer.

"The Margaret River wine growing region rivals the best regions of the world. It is an outstanding location that produces excellent wines and we believe has the potential to really excel when it comes to Chardonnay. The Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay, a fine example of what Margaret River has to offer, has provided the groundwork and we hope to build on that."

Field trials and collaborative research will be undertaken throughout the project in conjunction with The University of Western Australia and the Chemistry Centre (WA).

Professor John Considine from The University of Western Australia said "We are excited to be conducting this ground-breaking research with Evans & Tate and their growers and believe this project will set new horizons for all wine producers of the

Margaret River region. It will continue the work, begun at UWA in the 1960's by the 'discoverer' of Margaret River as a wine region, Dr Gladstones, to develop an understanding of environment and quality. We will bring leading technologies to relate site, climate, 'terroir', management, fruit chemistry and wine quality."

"Local producers should benefit from the results of our work as should the Margaret River region. Research such as this, given the active participation and support of companies such as Evans & Tate, will play a key role in sustaining the growth of international markets for their products."

Mr Tate concluded saying, "Evans & Tate has long been noted as a premium wine producer with a commitment to delivering consumers quality beyond expectation. The Chardonnay project further exemplifies our company's commitment to quality, the Margaret River region and the industry."

For further information, please contact

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