

# STAR LANE VINEYARD

**Santa Ynez Winery Rocks Napa Paradigm at Aspen Food & Wine**

**Star Lane Vineyard Leads the Pack of "Napa's Next Superstars"**

## **For Immediate Release:**

There's a reason the best Cabernet Sauvignon typically comes from Napa Valley. The king of red wine grapes likes hot summer days, cool nights and light, porous soils—as are found throughout what is arguably the New World's most famous wine region. But at the **26th Annual Aspen Food & Wine Festival** last week, Santa Ynez winery Star Lane proved that Napa Valley is not the only region in California that can produce plush textured, complex, yet fruit driven Cabernet Sauvignon.

The proof was in the glass when **Star Lane "Astral" Cabernet Sauvignon 2005** was featured as a "mystery wine" during a festival seminar titled, "Napa's Next Superstars." The line-up included up-and-coming Napa Valley wineries such as Blackbird Vineyards, Kapscandy Family, Carter Cellars Beckstoffer To Kalon, and the just-released Meteor (owned by ex-AOL president Barry Schuler). In truth all the wines showed nicely; but the one that got the biggest applause was Star Lane. It was, well....just more Napa-like than the Napa wines: big, rich, lush and brimming with ripe flavors.

"It's got more "pop," said one taster in the audience. Another said it was "bolder." What was obvious was that Star Lane stood apart from the rest in a way that was clearly appreciated by the audience.

Owned by vintners **Jim and Mary Dierberg**, Star Lane Vineyard occupies an unusually warm microclimate at the east end of the Santa Ynez Valley in an area known as Happy Canyon. Because of this distinctive *terroir*, the Dierbergs decided to focus on Bordeaux varieties when they purchased the property in 1996. Today some 237 acres are planted to vines. 2005 marked the first vintage for Star Lane Cabernet Sauvignon and the winery's special Cabernet designate known as "Astral."



What prompted the inclusion of Star Lane in the Napa's Next Superstars event? In blind tastings across the nation, Star Lane has consistently outperformed leading Napa "cult" wines. *Food & Wine's* wine editors were present at one of these tastings in New York last fall. They were so impressed with Star Lane that they named Star Lane Cabernet Sauvignon the magazine's best new Cabernet of 2007. From there, it was a natural progression for them to include Star Lane "Astral" among similarly great new wines—albeit from Napa Valley.

"It was a real honor to be considered on a par with some of the best wines in America," said Jim Dierberg. "We are very proud."

[starlanevineyard.com](http://starlanevineyard.com)

**To learn more about Star Lane and the Dierbergs**, please visit their website at **www.starlanevineyard.com** (see link above) or contact media liaison **Jeff Morgan at: jeff@m2wine.com (tel. 707 963 3887)**.