



October 2, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The story of the heritage vines at Bishop's Lodge

Santa Fe, NM -- In 1851 Jean Baptiste Lamy was appointed by the Vatican to be the first Bishop of the newly formed Southwest Diocese. After completing his 10-year service in Ohio, he returned to his homeland, Auvergne, France, for a short visit. Reportedly, he brought back with him plant cuttings for his new home in Santa Fe.

There is documented evidence these cuttings included grapevines. Pinot Noir is rare in Lamy's Auvergne, but Lamy had friends in the nearby Burgundy region, a possible, maybe likely, source for his grape cuttings. Lamy is well known for cultivating gardens in downtown Santa Fe, but he also planted gardens at his weekend retreat just 3 miles north of Santa Fe, which he named Villa Pintesca – the site that is now the Bishop's Lodge.

The Mother Vines of this Pinot grape were re-located about 20 miles from the Resort in the 1960s and still produce to this day. Cuttings from the Mother Vine will be re-planted back at the Resort this fall at an event followed by a private reception for Jacona Valley Vineyards, the keeper of the heritage vine.

"The return of the heritage vines to Bishop's Lodge is a step in re-claiming our history," says Managing Director Rich Verruni. "This is a special place and its history is part of Northern New Mexico history."

Ranked by **Travel & Leisure magazine** as one of America's premier retreats, the Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa offers the resort-style family vacations, weddings, and conference facilities.

Bishop's Lodge Ranch Resort & Spa is managed by Prism Hotels & Resorts, whose clients also include Marriott, Hilton, Radisson, Embassy Suites, and Holiday Inn. To make a reservation, call 800-732-2240 or visit www.bishopslodge.com.

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