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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAN DIEGO BAY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL AND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF WINE & FOOD AWARD SEVEN CULINARY ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS**

*Southern California's Largest Wine & Food Festival Teams Up With Community Partners to Raise Funds for AIWF Scholarships*

San Diego, CA (December 6, 2006) – Producers of the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival, along with generous donations from Union Bank of California and John M. and Sally B. Thornton, recently awarded seven culinary arts scholarships to deserving students at the Festival's November 11 Grand Tasting event.

“One of the highlights of the annual Festival is the awarding of these scholarships from funds raised during the event's live and silent auctions,” said Michelle Metter, the Festival's co-producer. “We feel very strongly that our event should help to cultivate new culinary artisans and enologists in our community and are thrilled to be able to increase the number of scholarships we are able to help fund each year.”

Applicants competed for the scholarships awarded this year by the San Diego Chapter of The American Institute of Wine & Food (AIWF). Scholarships were awarded in amounts ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000 to the following students:

**Jeremy Mandrell**, winner of a \$5,000 Culinary Arts Scholarship for study at The Art Institute of California – San Diego; **Andrea Cilurzo**, winner of the Piret and George Munger Scholarship in the Culinary Arts in the amount of \$5,000 for study at The Art Institute California – San Diego; **Sandra Kim**, winner of the John M. and Sally B. Thornton Scholarship in the Culinary Arts in the amount of \$2,500 for study at The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York; **Molly Nelson**, winner of the Union Bank of California Scholarship in the Culinary Arts in the amount of \$2,500 for study at The Art Institute California – San Diego; **Jon Creger**, winner of a \$1,000 Culinary Arts Scholarship for study at The Art Institute of California – San Diego; **Allison Grossman**, winner of a \$1,000 Culinary Arts Scholarship for study at New York University; and **Jennifer Jones** winner of a \$1,000.00 Culinary Arts Scholarship for study at The Art Institute of California – San Diego.

“We are most grateful to the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival for promoting the San Diego Chapter of AIWF and designating our organization and scholarship program as the recipient of their annual auction,” said Chapter Chairwoman Lisa Lipton. “We also wish to thank Union Bank of California and Sally B. and John M. Thornton for additional bequests awarded to the 2006 scholarship winners.”

This year's Festival raised over \$30,000 for AIWF scholarships to be awarded at the 2007 San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival on November 10. Details regarding applications for next year's awards will be made available through the AIWF website at [www.aiwf.org](http://www.aiwf.org).

### **ABOUT AIWF**

AIWF was founded as a 501(c)(3) educational organization. It is a national organization established in 1981 by Robert Mondavi, the late Julia Child and others to provide a forum for the study and enjoyment of gastronomy. In addition to awarding scholarships and organizing unique monthly food and wine related events, San Diego AIWF offers Days of Taste®, an outreach program teaching elementary school children the importance of fresh food and how ingredients weave their way through daily life, from farm to table. Visit [www.aiwf.org](http://www.aiwf.org) for further information.

### **ABOUT SAN DIEGO BAY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL**

The San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival is an international showcase of the world's premier wine and spirits producers, chefs and culinary personalities, and gourmet foods. Held November 7-11 in 2007, the event benefits the American Institute of Wine & Food culinary arts scholarship program. Over 700 wines, 50 of San Diego's top fine dining restaurants and 30 gourmet food companies and exhibitors will participate in the 2007 Festival. Now in its fourth year, the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival has quickly grown into a world-class wine and culinary extravaganza. The five-day festival features wine tasting seminars, cooking classes by award-winning chefs, and an elegant Reserve Tasting at one of San Diego's finest hotels. The festival culminates on Saturday at the star-studded Grand Tasting Event and Fine Wine/Lifestyle Auction complete with dueling chef demonstration stages, celebrity cookbook signing tents, "Living Large" entertainment tent, and more. For more information visit [www.worldofwineevents.com](http://www.worldofwineevents.com).

### **ABOUT WORLD OF WINE EVENTS**

World of Wine Events, LLC is an event management and festival production company specializing in the creation of world-class wine and culinary trade and consumer events. World of Wine Events provides strategic guidance, logistics, operations, marketing, public relations, and industry insights for winery and spirits road shows, distributor trade tastings, as well as large format tasting and lifestyle festivals. World of Wine Events is the producer of the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival, Southern California's largest wine and culinary extravaganza. More information on World of Wine Events and the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival may be found by contacting Michelle Metter at 619-602-9789 or by visiting [www.worldofwineevents.com](http://www.worldofwineevents.com).

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