



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **O'Neill Vintners & Distillers Acquires Robert Hall Winery**

*Leading California Wine Producer Expands Presence on California's Central Coast*

**Larkspur, California** (August 1, 2016) – O'Neill Vintners & Distillers, the seventh-largest wine producer in California by volume, has announced the purchase of Robert Hall Winery in Paso Robles, California. The sale includes the Robert Hall production facilities, hospitality center, inventory, vineyards and brands. Robert Hall Winery was established by Robert and Margaret Hall in 1999 and has grown to become the fifth largest winery in the Paso Robles wine region.

Robert Hall has earned a reputation for producing distinctive wines from the Paso Robles appellation, especially Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Rhone varietals. Major accolades include "Winery of the Year" by the California State Fair and California Mid-State Fair. The Robert Hall brand continues to show tremendous growth in retail channels, with total U.S. sales up +47% during the past 26 weeks as measured by Nielsen. The label was recently awarded Impact Hot Prospect Brand honors in recognition of its consistent growth rate for the past three years in a row.

The acquisition marks a significant expansion for O'Neill Vintners along California's Central Coast. "We've been sourcing grapes from Paso Robles for many years," said Jeff O'Neill, CEO of O'Neill Vintners. "We are thrilled to have this opportunity to further expand our presence in one of the most important wine regions in California. Paso Robles wines are known for their tremendous quality and Robert Hall Winery has been at the forefront of that movement. We look forward to building on the impressive legacy of Robert, Margaret and their staff."

"Jeff and his team are the perfect fit to help take our winery and brands to the next level," said Margaret Hall, owner of Robert Hall Winery. "Just like us, O'Neill Vintners is family owned and run with an unwavering commitment to quality and sustainability. I can't think of a better steward for Robert Hall and I know the winery will be in good hands with O'Neill Vintners at the helm."



### **About O'Neill Vintners & Distillers**

O'Neill Vintners & Distillers was founded in 2004 by Jeff O'Neill, former CEO of Golden State Vintners. The family-owned and operated winery has grown to become one of the largest varietal wine and brandy producers in California with a reputation for producing high quality wines from the North Coast, Central Coast and Central Valley. Through its extensive vineyards and modern production facilities, O'Neill provides premium winemaking services to the industry as well as its growing portfolio of national brands and control labels. In addition to the company's fast growing Line 39 (up +29% trailing 26 weeks per Nielsen), other brands in the company's national brands portfolio include Harken, Redtree, Austerity, Allegro, Backhouse, Camelot and Flat Rock. For more information, please visit [www.ONeillWine.com](http://www.ONeillWine.com).

### **About Robert Hall Winery**

Robert Hall Winery was founded in 1999 by Robert and Margaret Hall in the rolling hills of Paso Robles wine country. During the ensuing years, Robert Hall created an iconic Paso Robles winery that specialized in delivering the "Essence of Paso Robles", believing that Paso Robles could deliver an excellent bottle of wine to consumers at a reasonable price, and for those who visited the winery in person, they could have a first-class experience on the beautiful grounds. Wine enthusiasts and critics agreed, awarding the winery many top accolades over the years as production volume climbed on an annual basis. For more information, please visit [www.RobertHallWinery.com](http://www.RobertHallWinery.com).

###