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## **Nordby Wine Caves Digs Paso Robles Again**

*Santa Rosa, California, November 4, 2010* – Nordby Wine Caves announces the beginning of Phase One in the construction of an 11,300sf mixed-use wine cave at Halter Ranch in Paso Robles, Ca. J.W. Design & Construction is serving as the General Contractor on this project. The first phase of construction is estimated to take 4-5 months to complete.

From the first wine caves scratched from a Napa Valley hillside in 1870 by Chinese laborers to today's highly sophisticated wine caves that combine storage with hospitality, wine caves have been an interesting, even romantic, facet of California wine making culture.

Vintners find many advantages with wine caves:

To begin with, wine caves generally maintain a nearly constant temperature and humidity – ideal for storage of wine. This contributes to a reduction in wine-barrel evaporation of about 25% when compared to surface storage. Vintners can save up to 10% in lost volume with red wines, that are typically aged 2 years, and about 5% for whites that are aged a year. Caves provide a quiet, motion-free environment for wines to mature.

With the air of mystery that can only come from being underground, wine caves can offer the vintner a unique venue to showcase his or her product.

Wine caves are often the answer when it is politically, physically or environmentally not feasible to construct above ground.

Since product control is critical for today's high end wine makers, caves offer the most secure option for wine storage and management.

And because they require minimal heating and cooling, caves are the most eco-friendly – and from a utility standpoint low-cost – means of providing nearly ideal wine storage conditions.

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Since constructing the 15,600sf Justin Vineyards wine caves nearly 10 years ago, and also located in Paso Robles, Nordby Wine Caves has completed more than 30 caves and other underground structures throughout California.

Cave works encompasses a range of services and techniques including:

- Excavation for Portals.
- Installation of “*soil nails*” – a technique in which soil slopes, excavations or retaining walls are reinforced by the insertion of steel reinforcing bars or other slender elements
- Installation of reinforcing structural steel and welded wire fabric
- Application of *shotcrete* – a concrete slurry that is sprayed at high velocity onto the cave roof, walls and floor
- Excavation of caves using “*road headers*” – equipment originally designed for small mining operations, cutting-head mounted excavators and rubber tired backhoes
- Drilling of support bolts with hydraulic “*jack-leg*” drills
- Waterproofing
- Ventilation shaft construction including grouting of pipe and cave liner tie-ins
- Basic utilities including – hot and cold water, compressed air, inert gas, electric service, glycol, process drainage and subsurface drains for water runoff

For more information about wine caves or other services Nordby provides, visit [www.nordby.net](http://www.nordby.net).

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