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### **Fresh vines of vision at Marlborough hotel - *Dominion Post* 17 March 2008**

ORGANISERS looking to stage a memorable conference will find the perfect venue in Marlborough Vintners Hotel.

Marlborough Vintners Hotel - MVH - is the new name of the Vintners Retreat, at 190 Rapaura Road, not far from Blenheim. New management, fresh vision and a re-branding has positioned the hotel well in the small-to-medium-sized conference and meetings market.

Located in the heart of Marlborough's winegrowing region and surrounded by some of New Zealand's top vineyards, it is a retreat from city distractions in an environment that allows a total focus on conference objectives.

Early last year Dave and Sarah took over the management of the hotel.

Mr Anderson, the general manager, has a food and beverage and events operations background. He has held various senior positions within the hospitality industry and owned his own catering business. Sarah, the operations manager, also comes from a hospitality background. She studied commerce and hotel management at university before travelling overseas, where she owned and operated successful restaurants and catering operations in Britain.

"The hotel is an ideal location for small-to-medium-sized conferences and meetings, where the focus of the experience is on the finer things in life," Dave says.

It features luxurious hotel suites, the award-winning restaurant The Vintners Room, and two exceptional conference meeting spaces.

The Barrel Room, a former wine cellar, is the main conference venue. With exceptional acoustics, it has seating capacity for larger numbers, as well as broadband network capabilities for up to 32 laptops and audio/ visual facilities. The room can seat 200 people for theatre-style meetings and 150 for banquet meals.

The Boardroom is ideal for smaller meetings of up to 24 people, with executive leather chairs around the large boardroom table, which breaks down to smaller tables for workshops.

The team at MVH understand the importance of delivering a seamless experience from concept to completion. They can even arrange cost-efficient transport from any destination, where even the journey to the hotel encompasses elements of team building or conference objectives.

One of the benefits of hosting a conference at MVH is that organisers can take advantage of having everyone stay at the same location.\* Built among the vines and cherry trees and next to The Vintners Room Restaurant and the conference centre, the contemporary hotel suites offer accommodation for up to three individuals or two couples in each of the 16 luxury units.

The hotel can also coordinate larger bookings with a select group of four- and five-star properties in the immediate vicinity, and can provide complimentary transfers to and from the hotel, ensuring that additional guests are well looked after.

MVH specialises in hosting special interest groups such as sporting events or arts seminars and symposiums. Staff will help organise and coordinate activities, using the hotel as a hub for a group's event.