

**THE BALLASTONE INN BRINGS TASTE OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST TO SAVANNAH  
WITH BIG FIRE WINE SALON**

*\*historic mansion pairs lavish accommodations with fabulous wines for ultimate getaway\**

**Savannah, Ga. (October 26, 2005)** -- The Ballastone Inn, Savannah's preeminent historic bed and breakfast mansion, will add a taste of the Pacific Northwest to their acclaimed southern hospitality with their second Wine Salon event on Saturday, November 12, 2006. The Wine Salon features special guest Trish Rogers of Oregon's award-winning R. Stuart & Co. who will introduce the company's Big Fire wines in an intimate tasting. The second in an exclusive series created to bring the finest of boutique wines to the finest of boutique inns, the Wine Salons are part of a series of events and amenities that The Ballastone is producing to honor its guests as the Inn celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Attendance is limited to overnight guests only. Rates for the sixteen guests rooms and suites, each of which are luxuriously decorated and appointed with finest in antique furnishings, linens and artwork, range from \$215 to \$395 and also include a full, home-made breakfast, formal afternoon tea, and heavy hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour.

The Big Fire Wine Salon will be held in The Ballastone's fabled Lounge, complete with a handsome, hand-carved antique Victorian bar. Traveling in from Ireland, Ms. Rogers will guide the tasting providing insight and background into the making, origin and inspiration of each wine. Featured wines include Rose d'Or, a sparkling wine made in the grand French tradition and one of the vineyard's renowned pinot noirs, famous for its classic Rob Stuart style, elegant and luscious with a rich, complex blend of flavors recalling plums, raspberries and dark chocolate. The wines will be complemented by food pairings from a selection of the Inn's signature hors d'oeuvres.

"Passion is what distinguishes R. Stuart & Co.," says Rogers. "In fact, the Big Fire wines are named after the fire and passion that winemaker Rob Stuart has for these vintages." Known for making only the wines they love, R. Stuart & Co. chooses the best fruit in the valley for their Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris and Sparkling Wine.

Located in McMinnville, Oregon in an old granary that was converted to a winery, R. Stuart & Co. produces a limited number of cases a year. Founders Rob and Maria Stuart, both foster a passion for the wines, especially for Pinot Noir, an Oregon specialty.

Owners and innkeepers Jim and Jennifer Salandi created the Wine Salons to offer guests an intimate setting in which to discover and learn the nuances of some of the finest, most carefully-crafted boutique wines from around the world. The Ballastone's Wine Salons host experts from these wineries who conduct tastings and educational seminars to heighten the experience for guests. The Wine Salons debuted in October with Paul Hobbs Winery of Sonoma County, California, and will continue throughout 2005 and 2006. For future events, please check the website or contact The Ballastone directly.

Built in 1838, this sumptuous historic district Inn occupies a four-story Italianate mansion that once served as a bordello and Prohibition Era speakeasy in Savannah, Georgia. Named in historical recognition of the King Cotton-era ship's ballast stone (balancing stones) which were discharged on the Savannah River docks from international ports, the landmark Inn was fully restored in 1979. Today, the elegance and opulence of the Golden Era and the best of legendary southern etiquette are featured at The Ballastone – Savannah's distinguished first luxury bed & breakfast small hotel featuring 16 private guestrooms and suites. The Inn's "table for two privacy"<sup>(SM)</sup>, elevator, handsome Victorian hotel bar and 24/7 concierge services differentiate the luxury bed and breakfast mansion in the hub of the Landmark Savannah Historic District. On the National Register as a city historic site, The Ballastone is a 2005 Andrew Harper's Hideaway Grand Award Winner, is recommended by Condé Nast Johansens, Fodor's, Frommer's and is an AAA Four-Diamond rated property.

For additional information or reservations, please contact The Ballastone at (800) 822-4553, or visit the property's website at [www.Ballastone.com](http://www.Ballastone.com).

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