

## NOT JUST ANY PORT IN A STORM

### *Savannah's Ballastone Fall Wine Salon Features Churchill's Ports*

**Savannah, Ga. (September 26, 2006)** - The Ballastone Inn, Savannah's award-winning historic bed and breakfast mansion, invites guests to experience the unique quality of Churchill's Grade A port wine for their fifth Wine Salon event on Saturday, October 7, 2006. Special guest Nicolas Lopez of Frederick-Wildman Imports will lead an intimate tasting of Churchill's legendary ports from the premium Cima Corgo area of Portugal's Douro Valley, the only true port-making region. Attendance is limited to overnight guests only. Nightly 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, southern breakfast, formal afternoon tea, and hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour.

This rare tasting will feature three of the basic ports- Tawny, White and Vintage- including Churchill's signature 10-year and 20-year Tawny Port, which are distinguished by their darker, brick-red color. Guests will also taste the specialty Non-Vintage White Port from the Pinhão valley and experience the unique flavor of this full bodied, dry rich wine. Concentrated layers of fruit make the Finest Vintage Character Port a premium selection with its velvety finish and sweet chocolate and raspberry aroma. Also featured is the Late-Bottled Vintage Port made from only the best grapes. Characterized as a "traditional" wine, this vintage has been bottled without any filtration or refrigeration to fully develop for four years before being released for sale. Each of Churchill's unique wines will provide guests with a sweet experience on how to fully enjoy the pleasure of a port wine. The wines will be complemented by food pairings from a selection of the Inn's signature hors d'oeuvres.

The Churchill Port Wine Salon will be held in The Ballastone's fabled Lounge, complete with a handsome, hand-carved antique Victorian bar. Traveling from the heart of the port wine country of Portugal, Mr. Nicolas Lopez will guide the tasting and provide insight and background into the making, origin and inspiration of each wine.

Controlling every aspect of production from grape to bottle has earned Churchills a reputation for the finest port wines produced from only Grade A vineyards. Created by Johnny Graham and his wife Caroline in 1981, Churchill's was established to continue a family tradition in producing the finest ports and is the first independent British port wine company to be founded in the last 70 years.

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 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 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 Ballastone 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 Savannah Landmark 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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