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Access the Maui's Winery press kit at www.mauiwine.com. Images available upon request.

The Valley Isle's Most Breathtaking Drive: Upcountry Maui—Home of Maui's Winery

‘ULUPALAKUA, Maui, Hawai‘i (2006)—The island of Maui was formed by two volcanoes that erupted long ago – the extinct 5,788 foot Pu‘u Kukui and the dormant 10,023 foot Haleakala (now the centerpiece of a national park). The resulting depression between the two is what gives Maui its nickname, the Valley Isle.

Hawai‘i's lore says that the demi-god Maui captured the sun and pulled it to Earth, where it resides in Haleakala (House of the Sun). The slopes that lead to the summit of this magnificent crater offer some of the most spectacular scenery on Maui. In the cooler climate of this “upcountry” region, coffee, strawberry, avocado, tropical flowers, lavender, and persimmon farms cluster around charming little towns with delightful retail outlets.

Towns that line the roads of Haleakala are Makawao (famous for its annual Fourth of July rodeo), Pukalani, Kokomo and Keokea, the last stop before reaching Maui's Winery. In Keokea, visitors will find the tiny Grandma's Coffee House, overlooking a stunning view of Wailea and the ocean beyond. Continuing along Highway 37 past Keokea visitors arrive at the 20,000 acre ‘Ulupalakua Ranch, home of Maui's Winery.

The upcountry drive leads visitors along a winding road, set among bucolic pastures dotted with cattle and sheep and lined with jacaranda trees that are a profusion of purple in the months of April and May. The ranch itself greets visitors with a vast green umbrella, giant trees that are hundreds of years old, having shaded the grounds when King Kalakaua celebrated and entertained there.

A visit to Upcountry Maui should also include Haleakala National Park, which was created in 1916. The winding road to the summit is lined with gorgeous green ranchlands. Also found in the area are the Kula Botanical Gardens, the Enchanting Floral Gardens and the Sunrise Protea Farm. Polipoli Springs State Recreation Area is a state park high above Kula offering miles of trails, a picnic area, a small redwood forest and great views.

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The Valley Isle's Most Breathtaking Drive

Page 2

In the town of Makawao visitors will find a charming main street with shops ranging from supply stores for cowboys to no fewer than sixteen chic art galleries. Great little restaurants are side-by-side with country stores selling pot-bellied stoves and firewood.

Just up the road is the Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center. In this beautiful and tranquil setting a visual arts center and gift shop occupy a historic estate, Kaluanui, built in 1917 by famous Honolulu architect C.W. Dickey. Near the entrance to the nine-acre estate are the remains of one of Maui's earliest sugar mills.

Established in 1974, Maui's Winery is located at the scenic 'Ulupalakua Ranch on the slopes of Haleakalā Maui. Also referred to as Tedeschi Vineyards, Maui's Winery offers a wide selection of locally made wines which are available for tasting and purchase on the grounds where King Kalakaua's historic guest cottage is located. Reminiscent of the King's love for parties and entertaining, Maui's Winery often hosts picnics and special events, and has become a popular destination for visitors exploring Upcountry Maui. For more information on tours and the winery, call (808) 878-1266, or visit the website at www.mauiwine.com.

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