Entered on Docket June 01, 2016 **EDWARD J. EMMONS, CLERK** U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA



MEYERS LAW GROUP, P.C. MERLE C. MEYERS, ESQ., CA Bar #66849 KATHY QUON BRYANT, ESQ., CA Bar #213156 MICHELE THOMPSON, ESQ., CA Bar #241676 3 44 Montgomery Street, Suite 1010 San Francisco, CA 94104 The following constitutes the order of the court. Telephone: (415) 362-7500 Signed June 1, 2016 4 Facsimile: (415) 362-7515 5 Email: mmeyers@meyerslawgroup.com kquonbryant@meyerslawgroup.com mthompson@meverslawgroup.com 6 William J. Lafferty, III U.S. Bankruptcy Judge 7 CHAVEZ & GERTLER LLP Mark A. Chavez (Cal. SBN 090858) Nance F. Becker (Cal. SBN 99292) 8 Dan L. Gildor (Cal. SBN 223027) 42 Miller Avenue Mill Valley, California 94941 Telephone: (415) 381-5599 10 Facsimile: (415) 381-5572 Email: mark@chavezgertler.com 11 nance@chavezgertler.com dan@chavezgertler.com 12 13 Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Settlement Class 14 IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 15 OAKLAND DIVISION 16 Case No. 16-40050-WJL In re: 17 FOX ORTEGA ENTERPRISES, INC., dba Chapter 7 PREMIER CRU, 18 A.P. No. 16-04033 Debtor. 19 **ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY** APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT 20 MICHAEL D. PODOLSKY, on behalf of 21 Date: May 25 and 27, 2016 himself and all others similarly situated, Time: 10:30 a.m. 22 **Place: Courtroom 220** Plaintiff, 1300 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 23 Judge: Hon. William J. Lafferty, III VS. 24 MICHAEL G. KASOLAS, Trustee, 25 Defendant. 26

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ORDER GRANTING PRETITIONARY APPROVAL OF SEPTLEMENT 30491.DOC

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The Court, having reviewed the Stipulation of Settlement (as modified and attached hereto as **Exhibit "A,"** the "Stipulation of Settlement") between Plaintiff Michael D. Podolsky and Defendant Michael G. Kasolas, Trustee of the Estate of Fox Ortega Enterprises, Inc., dba Premier Cru ("Trustee"), and having conducted a hearing to consider the Stipulation of Settlement, hereby finds and concludes that the proposed settlement appears to be fair, reasonable, adequate and contains settlement terms that are likely within the range sufficient to receive final approval pursuant to the provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure, Rule 23(a) and 23(b)(2), as made applicable to these proceedings by Rule 7023 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, as more fully set forth below. Court finds that the requirements for class certification set out in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are readily satisfied. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 23. The settlement class is numerous and ascertainable, plaintiff is adequate with claims that are typical, questions of law and fact that predominate are common to the class, and a class action is superior to individual litigation.

Accordingly, GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, and for the reasons, findings and conclusions stated orally by the Court in the course of hearings on May 25 and 27, 2016 of this matter, the Court hereby PRELIMINARILY APPROVES the Stipulation of Settlement and ORDERS that:

1. The following settlement class (the "Class") is conditionally certified for settlement purposes only:

All persons who at any time (a) ordered wine from Debtor, (b) paid for their purchase(s), (c) received written notification from Debtor that their order(s) had been filled, or were otherwise allocated a bottle of wine and (d) whose wine remains in the custody and control of Trustee at the Warehouse..

- 2. The law firms of Meyers Law Group, P.C. and Chavez & Gertler LLP are appointed as settlement class counsel pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g) ("Class Counsel"). Michael D. Podolsky is appointed as the settlement class representative.
- 3. The notice and provisions for disseminating the notice substantially as described in the Stipulation of Settlement are hereby approved. The Court approves the notice attached as **Exhibit "B"** to this order (the "Notice"). The Notice shall be served upon Class members no later than June 3, 2016.

- 4. The parties are hereby directed to carry out and comply with the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement.
- 5. Any person in the Class who wishes to be excluded from the settlement shall transmit a written request to be excluded, in the manner set forth in the Notice, so that it is received by the Trustee no later than July 5, 2016. Any Class member who does not timely and validly request exclusion shall remain a Class member and shall be bound by the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement.
- 6. Any person in the Class who wishes to object to the settlement shall file the objection with this Court, and shall serve such objection on the Plaintiff and Trustee, no later than July 5, 2016. Settlement class members who do not timely file and serve a written objection in accordance with this paragraph and the terms of the Notice shall be deemed to have waived, and shall be foreclosed from raising, any objection to the settlement or to appeal the final order and judgment.
- 7. Class Counsel shall file their motion for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses within 14 days following the entry of this order. Any objections to such motion shall be filed and served no later than July 5, 2016, and any reply thereto shall be filed and served no later than July 15, 2016. Such motion shall be heard on a preliminary basis on July 27, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 220 of this Court.
- 8. A hearing is hereby set for July 27, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 220 of this Court to consider any objections that may be filed and to determine whether the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be finally approved by the Court. All memoranda, affidavits, declarations and other evidence in support of the request for final approval of the settlement shall be filed on or before June 15, 2016, and shall be posted to a website accessible to parties in interest. No other service of such documents shall be required. Any response to objections shall be filed on or before July 15, 2016. The Court reserves the right to continue the date of the final approval hearing without further notice to class members.

****END OF ORDER****

1	SERVICE LIST
2 3	Mark A. Chavez, Esq. Chavez & Gertler LLP 42 Miller Ave.
4	Mill Valley, CA 94941
5	Michael Kasolas c/o Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean LLP
6	c/o Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean LLP Attn: Mark S. Bostick, Esq. 1111 Broadway, 24 th Fl. Oakland, CA 94607-4036
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STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

This Stipulation of Settlement (this "<u>Stipulation</u>") is entered into as of May 23, 2016 by and among: (a) MICHAEL G. KASOLAS, as trustee ("<u>Trustee</u>") of the chapter 7 estate (the "Estate") of Fox Ortega Enterprises, Inc., formerly doing business as Premier Cru ("<u>Debtor</u>"); and (b) MICHAEL PODOLSKY, as plaintiff ("<u>Plaintiff</u>") in the Class Action, as defined below.

RECITALS

- A. On January 8, 2016 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the "<u>Bankruptcy Code</u>"), in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California, Oakland Division (the "<u>Court</u>"), commencing case no. 16-40050-WJL (the "<u>Chapter 7 Case</u>").
- B. Thereafter, on January 8, 2016, Trustee was appointed as the trustee of the Debtor's chapter 7 estate.
- C. Prior to the Petition Date, Debtor was in the business of buying and selling bottles of wine.
- D. As of the Petition Date and as of the date of execution of this Stipulation, in excess of 76,000 bottles of wine were held in the Debtor's warehouse located in Berkeley, California (the "Warehouse").
- E. As of the Petition Date, certain of those bottles, but not all of the bottles, had been "Allocated" by Debtor, meaning that as of that date, there was a code entry in the Debtor's computer inventory system associating a wine by variety and vintage that was in the Warehouse, with a particular purchaser or particular purchasers.
- F. Each of the bottles presently in the Warehouse are within one of the following categories:
 - (1) "New Bottles," meaning any bottles received by Debtor within 90 days preceding the Petition Date, including a container shipment of bottles received by the Debtor as of November 12, 2015.
 - (2) "<u>Purchased Bottles</u>," meaning bottles in the Warehouse that had been Allocated to specific customers' orders, or for which specific customers otherwise received notification of order fulfillment, other than New Bottles, with no competing purchasers.
 - (3) "Oversubscribed Bottles," meaning bottles in the Warehouse corresponding to specific orders, other than New Bottles, that had been Allocated to more purchasers than bottles.
 - (4) "<u>Unassigned Bottles</u>," meaning bottles in the Warehouse that were

not Purchased Bottles, Oversubscribed Bottles, Segregated Bottles or New Bottles.

- (5) "<u>Segregated Bottles</u>," meaning Purchased Bottles, and any other bottles that, although not Allocated, had been designated for shipping to a particular customer without any competing purchasers, that were pulled off the shelves and segregated for delivery or pickup as of the Petition Date.
- (6) "<u>Segregated Oversubscribed Bottles</u>," meaning Oversubscribed Bottles that were pulled off the shelves and segregated for delivery or pickup as of the Petition Date.
- G. On March 29, 2016, Trustee filed a motion seeking authority under Section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code to sell Segregated Bottles and Segregated Oversubscribed Bottles, and by implication, to determine that all such bottles, and all other bottles in the Warehouse, were property of the Estate (the "Sale Motion").
- H. Opposition to the Sale Motion was filed by multiple former customers of Debtor, challenging Trustee's ownership and right to sell bottles in the Warehouse. Those oppositions were filed by, among others, Robert P. Morris, Lee Q. Shim, T. Szen Low and William Witte (collectively, the "Participating Customers"), and by Plaintiff. In each of the objections, the objectors disputed Trustee's ownership and ability to sell bottles in the Warehouse.
- I. On April 27, 2016, Plaintiff filed a class action complaint (the "Complaint") against Trustee, initiating an adversary proceeding entitled *Michael D. Podolsky, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated vs. Michael G. Kasolas, Trustee*, A.P. no. 16-04033 (the "Class Action").
- J. In the Complaint, Plaintiff seeks, *inter alia*, declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("FRCP," made applicable by Rule 7023 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure ("FRBP")), on behalf of himself and those similarly situated, to determine the ownership and equitable interests in Purchased Bottles and Oversubscribed Bottles. Trustee has not yet answered the Complaint, and pursuant to the terms set forth below, the Class Action will be resolved without the necessity of an answer.
- K. The Sale Motion was heard by the Court on May 2 and 9, 2016, and thereafter taken under submission by the Court. At the encouragement of the Court, Trustee, Participating Customers, Plaintiff and others then engaged in mediation, with the Honorable Dennis Montali acting as mediator.
- L. After extensive negotiations in mediation, Trustee, Participating Customers and Plaintiff reached a tentative settlement of the Sale Motion and the Class Action, in the form of a term sheet (the "<u>Term Sheet</u>"), subject to documentation.

M. Trustee and Plaintiff (collectively, the "Parties") now wish to resolve all claims and disputes between them with respect to the Sale Motion and the Class Action, in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

STIPULATION

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HERETO HEREBY AGREE, COVENANT AND STIPULATE, FOR ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION HEREBY RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED, as follows:

- 1. <u>Recitals Incorporated</u>. Each of the facts set forth in the foregoing recitals is known to the Parties to be true and correct, and each such recital is incorporated herein.
- 2. <u>Condition to Effectiveness</u>. The effectiveness of this Stipulation is conditioned upon Final Court Approval, as defined below, and each of the Parties agrees to use his, her or its reasonable best efforts to obtain such approval as promptly as possible.
- 3. <u>Certification of Class and Class Counsel</u>. The Parties hereby stipulate and agree to the certification of the following class (the "<u>Class</u>") and its counsel ("<u>Class</u>"):
 - (a) The Class shall consist of all persons who at any time (a) ordered wine from Debtor, (b) paid for their purchase(s), (c) received written notification from Debtor that their order(s) had been filled, or were otherwise Allocated a bottle of wine, and (d) whose wine remains in the custody and control of Trustee at the Warehouse.
 - (b) The Class Counsel shall consist of Meyers Law Group, P.C. and Chavez & Gertler LLP.
- 4. <u>Preliminary Court Approval</u>. As soon as practicable following full execution of this Stipulation, the Parties shall seek, on an *ex parte* basis, an order (the "<u>Preliminary Approval Order</u>") of the Court providing the following relief:
 - (a) Preliminary certification of the Class Action and the Class;
 - (b) Preliminary approval of the appointment of Class Counsel; and
 - (c) Approval of the form and timing of the notices described in paragraph 8 herein.
- 5. <u>Motion for Certification and Approval of Class Settlement.</u> As soon as practicable following full execution of this Stipulation, Class Counsel shall file a motion in the Court (the "<u>Final Approval Motion</u>") seeking approval of this Stipulation, approval of notice, and final certification of the Class, pursuant to FRCP Rules 7023(c), (e) and (g).

- 6. <u>Rule 9019 Motion</u>. As soon as practicable following full execution of this Stipulation, Trustee shall file a motion in the Court (the "<u>Rule 9019 Motion</u>") seeking approval of this Stipulation as a compromise under FRBP Rule 9019.
- 7. <u>Section 363 Motion</u>. As soon as practicable following full execution of this Stipulation, Trustee shall file a motion in the Court (the "<u>Section 363 Motion</u>") seeking approval of the sale of wine bottles as described herein, pursuant to the provisions of Section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 8. <u>Notices to Class Members and Creditors</u>. Subject to approval by the Court pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Order, Trustee shall promptly cause its noticing agent (the "<u>Noticing Agent</u>") to serve notice (the "<u>Class Notice</u>") of the Final Approval Motion upon all Class members, and to service notice of the Rule 9019 Motion and the Section 363 Motion upon all creditors of the Estate. With respect to the Class Notice in particular:
 - (a) The Class Notice shall be substantially in the form of the notice attached hereto as **Exhibit "A,"** and shall be approved in advance by Class Counsel; and
 - (b) The Class Notice shall direct Class members to a website maintained by Trustee wherein Class members may obtain estimates of such members' distributions under this Stipulation, on a category-by-category basis.
- 9. <u>Settlement Website</u>. Trustee shall maintain a website at <u>www.BMCGroup.com/PremierCru</u> on which this Stipulation shall be posted. The website shall also provide to Class members a method to access their order information and verify whether they can redeem any bottles, including a listing of the bottles that they can redeem, if any.
- 10. <u>Final Court Approval</u>. The Parties shall schedule a hearing before the Court for consideration of the Class Settlement Motion, the Rule 9019 Motion and the Section 363 Motion, as soon as practicable, after allowing no less than 30 days' notice of a deadline for objections or Opt-Outs (as defined below), together with an opportunity for the Parties to respond in writing to any such objections. At that hearing, the Parties will seek an order of the Court (the "Final Court Approval") granting such motions.
- 11. <u>Redemption of Segregated Bottles</u>. Any Class member holding an interest in a Segregated Bottle may redeem that bottle (a "<u>Redeemed Bottle</u>"), at such member's own shipping expense and with payment of any applicable sales taxes and a reasonable handling fee paid to the Bulk Buyers, *provided* that such class member timely performs each the following actions:
 - (a) Within 30 days of mailing the Class Notice, that class member's written election to redeem the bottle is received by Trustee, together with that class member's payment to Trustee an amount equal to 20% of the price originally paid by that person to purchase the Redeemed Bottle, together with the sales taxes; and

(b) Prior to August 31, 2016, that class member shall have caused the Redeemed Bottle to have been shipped from the Warehouse or the premises of the Bulk Buyers (as defined below), as the case may be, and shall have paid all necessary shipping charges and the handling fee identified above.

In the event that any Class member fails to timely satisfy the deadline set forth in paragraph 11(b) as to a particular Redeemed Bottle, absent the consent of the Bulk Buyers and the Trustee, that Class member's right to the Redeemed Bottle shall be deemed forfeited and assigned to Trustee, and such Class member shall have no right to reimbursement of funds paid pursuant to paragraph 11(a). Trustee shall dispose of any forfeited Redeemed Bottles in his discretion, and any sale proceeds therefrom shall be deposited into the Segregated Subfund, as defined below.

If a Class member redeems a Redeemed Bottle, an amount equal to 80% of the original purchase price paid by that member for the bottle shall be deducted from that class member's proof of claim. Any Class member who has redeemed a Redeemed Bottle and does not amend his or her proof of claim in the Chapter 7 Case to reduce such claim in accordance with this paragraph on or before October 31, 2016 shall be deemed to have withdrawn such proof of claim in its entirety.

- 12. <u>Opt-Out Bottles</u>. Class members may exclude themselves from the Class by timely notifying the Trustee in writing (the "<u>Opt-Out Notification</u>") of their intent to do so, and must comply with each of the following requirements:
 - (a) The Opt-Out Notification must be received by the Trustee no later than 30 days following the mailing of the Class Notice.
 - (b) In order to be effective, an Opt-Out Notification must be made in writing and contain (1) the Class member's name, (2) his or her address, and (3) a dated signature, along with (4) a written statement that the Class Member has reviewed the Class Notice and wishes to be excluded from the Class.
 - (c) If a question is raised about the authenticity of a signed Opt-Out Notification, the Trustee will have the right to demand additional proof of the Class member's identity.
 - (d) A person who has effectively opted out of the Class will not participate in or be bound by this Stipulation. A Class member who does not effectively opt out will automatically remain a participating Class member and be bound by all terms and conditions of the Stipulation.
 - (e) In the event that any person effectively opts out of the Class, any Purchased Bottles, Oversubscribed Bottles or New Bottles that have been Allocated to that person (collectively, the "Opt-Out Bottles") shall be excluded from this Stipulation and the sale of bottles contemplated herein.
- 13. <u>Objections to Stipulation</u>. Class members may object to approval of this Stipulation by filing an objection with the Court and serving the objection on the Parties

within 30 days following the date of mailing of the Class Notice. The objection must include (1) the Class member's name, (2) the grounds for the objection, (3) a statement of whether the Class member intends to appear at the final approval hearing, (4) a list of any documents or witnesses that support the objection, and (5) a dated signature. Only those Class members who have not submitted an Opt-Out Notification may object to this Stipulation.

- 14. <u>Discretionary Cap on Opt-Out Bottles</u>. In the event that the original purchase prices of Opt-Out Bottles, in the aggregate, exceeds the percentage of total purchase prices of bottles in the Warehouse that is set forth and confirmed in an exchange of confidential emails between Trustee's counsel and Plaintiff's counsel dated May 31, 2016, Trustee shall have the option, in his sole discretion, to terminate this Stipulation, *provided* that written notice of such option is received by all Parties within seven (7) business days following the deadline for timely opt-outs under the terms of the Class Notice.
- 15. <u>Sale of Wine Bottles</u>. Subject to entry of the Final Court Approval, Trustee shall negotiate a sale contract subject to overbids with one or more buyers in bulk of the wine bottles in the Warehouse (collectively, the "<u>Bulk Buyers</u>"), upon the following terms and subject to overbids at auction:
 - (a) Trustee shall use his best efforts to obtain an aggregate, gross purchase price that is no less than \$5,000,000, less the allocated prices of Opt-out Bottles.
 - (b) The sale or sales shall include all bottles in the Warehouse other than Opt-out Bottles and Redeemed Bottles. The sale price or prices shall be broken down by the Bulk Buyers on a bottle-by-bottle basis and by category (i.e., Purchased Bottles, Segregated Bottles, Oversubscribed Bottles, Segregated Oversubscribed Bottles, Unassigned Bottles and New Bottles).
 - (c) The purchase price shall be deposited into an account maintained only for such purpose (the "<u>Proceeds Account</u>"). The Proceeds Account shall be held in trust by the Trustee for the Estate and the Class, and shall be disposed of only as provided in this Stipulation and upon an order of the Court.
- 16. <u>Trustee's Administrative Costs</u>. Trustee shall disburse from the Proceeds Account to an account of the Estate an amount equal to the sum of the following (the "<u>Trustee Administrative Deductions</u>"):
 - (a) Trustee's direct administrative costs (not including any fees of Trustee or his counsel) in preserving the bottles in the Warehouse, and related documentation, to date, up to maximum amount of the sum of \$100,000;
 - (b) Fees and costs incurred by Trustee to administer this Stipulation, including those of the Trustee (but not to exceed the amount of \$55,000), Brian Nishi, BMC or any other persons necessary to implement this Stipulation,

including but not limited to data analysis and activities in the Warehouse related to the sale of wine;

- (c) the Noticing Agent's charges in implementation of the noticing required by this Stipulation, including any notice or motion related to Bankruptcy Rule 9019, Bankruptcy Code Section 363 or any notices relating to claim determinations or distributions; and
- (d) any expenses incurred by Trustee after July 31, 2016 to preserve the bottles, including rent of the Warehouse, not to exceed \$10,000 per month.
- 17. <u>Disposition of Sale Proceeds</u>. After deducting the Trustee Administrative Deductions, Trustee shall disburse all other funds within the Proceeds Account as follows (with each subfund bearing its aliquot burden of the Trustee Administrative Deductions):
 - (a) Proceeds resulting from sale of Segregated Bottles shall be deposited into an account identified as the "Segregated Subfund."
 - (b) Proceeds resulting from sale of Purchased Bottles that are not Segregated Bottles shall be deposited into an account identified as the "<u>Purchased</u> Subfund."
 - (c) Proceeds resulting from sale of Oversubscribed Bottles other than Segregated Oversubscribed Bottles shall be deposited into an account identified as the "Oversubscribed Subfund."
 - (d) Proceeds resulting from sale of Unassigned Bottles and New Bottles shall be deposited into an account identified as the "<u>Unassigned Subfund</u>."
 - (e) Proceeds resulting from sale of Segregated Oversubscribed Bottles shall be deposited into an account identified as the "Segregated Oversubscribed Subfund."
- 18. <u>Disposition of Subfunds</u>. The subfunds created pursuant to paragraph 17 herein shall be administered by Trustee as follows:
 - (a) <u>Disposition of Segregated Subfund</u>. The Segregated Subfund shall be distributed by Trustee as follows:
 - (i) 20% to Estate.
 - (ii) 80% to customers whose orders correspond to Segregated Bottles other than Redeemed Bottles, less Class Counsel's approved fees and costs pursuant to paragraph 20 herein..
 - (b) <u>Disposition of Purchased Subfund</u>. The Purchased Subfund shall be distributed by Trustee as follows:

- (i) 50% to Estate.
- (ii) 50% to customers whose orders correspond to Purchased Bottles that are not Segregated Bottles, less Class Counsel's approved fees and costs pursuant to paragraph 20 herein.
- (c) <u>Disposition of Oversubscribed Subfund</u>. The Oversubscribed Subfund shall be distributed by Trustee as follows:
 - (i) 50% to Estate.
 - (ii) 50% to customers whose orders correspond to Oversubscribed Bottles, less Class Counsel's approved fees and costs pursuant to paragraph 20 herein.
- (d) <u>Disposition of Segregated Oversubscribed Subfund</u>. The Segregated Oversubscribed Subfund shall be distributed by Trustee as follows:
 - (i) 40% to Estate.
 - (ii) 10% to customers in whose names the Segregated Oversubscribed Bottles were segregated for delivery or pickup, less Class Counsel's approved fees and costs pursuant to paragraph 20 herein..
 - (iii) 50% to customers who were Allocated Segregated Oversubscribed Bottles, less Class Counsel's approved fees and costs pursuant to paragraph 20 herein..
- (e) <u>Disposition of Unassigned Subfund</u>. The Unassigned Subfund shall be distributed to the Estate.
- Final Determination of Distributions. The Trustee shall determine the amounts he proposes to distribute to each Class member in accordance with the terms of this Stipulation within 45 days following the completion of the sale of substantially all of the bottles to be sold under the terms hereof, and he shall post his determinations on the www.BMCGroup.com/PremierCru website and notify Class members and Class Counsel of such posting. Any Class member or Class Counsel who objects to the Trustee's determination of proposed distributions must file a written objection in the Bankruptcy Court in the Debtor's chapter 7 case, and serve the same upon the Trustee and Class Counsel, together with any supporting evidence, no later than 21 days following the Trustee's notification. Any objection not timely filed and served shall be deemed waived and forever barred. The Trustee shall consider any timely objections and confer with the objectors and Class Counsel over the objections. After doing so and making any adjustments that the Trustee concludes are appropriate, within 21 days following the deadline for objections, the Trustee shall schedule a binding arbitration to resolve any remaining unresolved objections. In such arbitration, all remaining objectors, the Trustee and Class Counsel shall be entitled to participate, in person only. The arbitrator shall be an independent person mutually selected by Trustee and Class Counsel, the arbitration

shall occur in the San Francisco Bay Area. The objecting parties shall pay half of the arbitrator's advance retainer, and at the conclusion of the arbitration, all of the arbitrator's fees shall be borne by the losing parties jointly and severally. Failure of the objecting parties to timely pay their collective 50% portion of the arbitrator's advance retainer shall be deemed a waiver of the objectors' challenges to the Trustee's decisions. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding, with no right of appeal or other challenge. No Class member shall have any claim against the Trustee, the Plaintiff, Brian Nishi or any agents, representatives or counsel of such Parties, relating to or arising from the Trustee's determinations, the distributions to Class members, or any other act or omission in the implementation of this Stipulation.

- 20. <u>Counsel Fees</u>. The Parties understand and acknowledge that Class Counsel are entitled to an award of attorneys' fees and costs, and that subject to approval by the Bankruptcy Court, such counsel shall seek an award of fees and costs, and applications therefor shall be filed and served no later than 14 days after the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order:
 - (a) Class Counsel shall seek fees and costs equal in the aggregate up to 25% of the Segregated Subfund, the Purchased Subfund, the Oversubscribed Subfund and the Segregated Oversubscribed Subfund recovered for Class members under paragraphs 18 (a)(ii), (b)(ii), (c)(ii), (d)(ii) and (d)(iii) herein.
 - (b) The finality and effectiveness of this Stipulation will not be conditioned on any ruling by the Court concerning the approval of any attorneys' fees and expenses of Class Counsel. No order or proceeding relating to a request for approval of attorneys' fees and expenses of Class Counsel or any appeal from any order relating thereto or reversal or modification thereof, will operate to delay or terminate the Stipulation, or to affect or delay its effectiveness.
 - (c) Nothing herein shall impair, prejudice or otherwise affect any Class member's right and opportunity to object to the reasonableness of fees and expenses requested by Class Counsel, *provided* that any person who has opted out of the Class shall not have any right or standing to make such an objection.
- 21. <u>Disposition of Class Action</u>. The Class Action shall be dismissed with prejudice through the entry of the Final Approval Order.
- 22. <u>Court's Continuing Jurisdiction</u>. The Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to the interpretation, implementation and enforcement of the terms of this Stipulation and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith, and the Parties and their respective counsel submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of interpreting, implementing and enforcing this Stipulation and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith.
- 23. <u>Allocations among Customers</u>. Proceeds in subfunds shall be allocated among customers in proportion to the original purchase prices paid by those customers to Debtor for the bottles within the category (e.g., Segregated, Oversubscribed, etc.).

- 24. <u>Assignment of Ownership</u>. Subject to entry of the Final Approval Order, the Class, on behalf of all of its members, hereby assigns to Trustee, without representation or warranty, all claims of ownership, beneficial interest and/or other rights to any bottles of wine in the Warehouse, other than as expressly preserved or created in this Stipulation. Without limiting the foregoing, the Class, on behalf of all of its members, acknowledges and agrees that Trustee may sell all such bottles (other than Optout Bottles) and distribute the proceeds thereof in accordance with the terms of this Stipulation.
- 25. <u>Settlement Checks Negotiable for 90 Days</u>. Any checks paid to Class members pursuant to this Stipulation shall remain valid and negotiable for ninety (90) days from the date of their issuance, and shall thereafter automatically be canceled if not cashed within that time. At that time, the Class member's right to payment will be deemed null and void and of no further force and effect although the individual will remain a Class member bound by the judgment entered in the case.
- (a) <u>Final Report by Administrator</u>. Within thirty (30) days after all disbursements have been made by Trustee and all checks have been negotiated or voided, the Trustee shall file with the Bankruptcy Court a declaration providing a final report on the disbursements of all funds.
- 26. <u>Distribution of Remaining Funds</u>. Any portion of the funds to be distributed to Class members that are not distributed for any reason, including any returned checks or checks that are undeliverable or otherwise not cashed, will be redistributed by Trustee proportionately to Class members whose checks were cashed, in accordance with the distributive scheme set forth in paragraph 18 above, *provided*, however, that if the total amount of funds that could not be distributed is \$25,000 or less, Trustee may, at his discretion, deem the uncashed checks to be property of the Estate, and distribute funds to the Estate accordingly. Any check paid to Class members from a second distribution shall remain valid and negotiable for 30 days only.
- 27. <u>Partial Release of Claims</u>. Trustee hereby releases all claims and causes of action, including without limitation any avoidance actions under Sections 544 *et seq*. of the Bankruptcy Code, against Class members solely to the extent that those claims or causes of action arise from or are related to such members' alleged rights or interests, or the creation of such rights or interests, in any bottles of wine that are the subject of this Stipulation.
- 28. Reduction of Proof of Claim. Class members' proofs of claims against the Estate shall be reduced to the extent of payments received under this Stipulation. Any Class member who receives a distribution under this Stipulation and does not amend his or her proof of claim in the Chapter 7 Case to reduce such claim in accordance with this paragraph on or before October 31, 2016 shall be deemed to have withdrawn such proof of claim in its entirety.
- 29. <u>Governing Law</u>. This Stipulation shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to its conflict of laws principles.

- 30. <u>Construction</u>. This Stipulation shall not be construed more strictly against either of the Parties merely by virtue of the fact that the majority of the document has been prepared by one of the Parties or his or her counsel, it being recognized that each of the Parties has contributed substantially and materially to the preparation of this Stipulation.
- 31. <u>Consideration</u>. Each of the Parties acknowledges and waives any claim contesting the existence and the adequacy of the consideration given by any of the other parties hereto in entering into this Stipulation.
- 32. <u>Entire Agreement</u>. The Parties each acknowledge that there are no other agreements or representations, either oral or written, express or implied, not embodied in this Stipulation, which represents a complete integration of all prior and contemporaneous agreements and understandings of the Parties. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Parties agree that the Term Sheet is fully replaced and superseded by this Stipulation except as provided herein, and upon full execution of this Stipulation, the Term Sheet shall have no further force or effect.
- 33. <u>Benefit</u>. Except as provided herein, this Stipulation shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties, and their respective successors, assigns, grantees, heirs, executors, personal representatives, and administrators.
- 34. <u>Counterparts</u>. It is understood and agreed that this Stipulation may be executed in several counterparts and may be transmitted by electronic mail or by original signature, each of which shall, for all purposes, be deemed an original and all of such counterparts, taken together, shall constitute one, and the same Stipulation, even though all of the parties hereto may not have executed the same counterpart of this Stipulation.
- 35. <u>Authority</u>. Each of the Parties represents that it has all necessary right, power and authority to enter into and perform this Stipulation under all applicable laws, and that upon execution, this Stipulation shall be binding on such party in accordance with its terms.
- 36. Notices. Except as otherwise provided, all notices, requests and demands hereunder shall be: (a) made to either party hereto at its address set forth below or to such other address as any party hereto may designate by written notice to the other parties in accordance with this provision; and (b) deemed to have been given or made: if by hand, immediately upon delivery; if by electronic mail, immediately upon receipt; if by overnight delivery service, one day after dispatch; and if by first class or certified mail, five (5) days after mailing. Any one such form of notice shall be sufficient for all purposes of this Stipulation.

To the Trustee:

Michael G. Kasolas, Trustee P.O. Box 26650 San Francisco, CA 94126 Telephone: (415) 504-1926 Email: <u>trustee@kasolas.net</u>

With a copy to:

Mark S. Bostick, Esq.
Tracy Green, Esq.
Elizabeth Berke-Dreyfuss, Esq.
WENDEL, ROSEN, BLACK & DEAN LLP
1111 Broadway, 24th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-4036
Telephone: (510) 834-6600
Facsimile: (510) 834-1928
Email: mbostick@wendel.com

tgreen@wendel.com edreyfuss@wendel.com

To the Plaintiff:

Michael D. Podolsky, Plaintiff c/o Merle C. Meyers, Esq. Kathy Quon Bryant, Esq. Michele Thompson, Esq. MEYERS LAW GROUP, P.C. 44 Montgomery Street, Suite 1010 San Francisco, CA 94941 Telephone: (415) 362-7500 Facsimile: (415) 362-7515

Email: mmeyers@meyerslawgroup.com mthompson@meyerslawgroup.com

And:

Mark A. Chavez, Esq.
Nance F. Becker, Esq.
CHAVEZ & GERTLER LLP
42 Miller Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941
Telephone: (415) 381-5599
Facsimile: (415) 381-5572
Email: mark@chavezgertler.com
nance@chavezgertler.com

37. <u>No Assignment</u>. Each of the Parties represents and warrants to the others that he, she or it has not assigned any authority to enter into this Stipulation, or to dispose

of any of the claims set forth herein, to third parties, and that the releases of those claims, as set forth above, are fully effective and comprehensive, according to their terms.

- 38. <u>Further Assurances</u>. Each of the Parties agrees to execute such documents, and take such actions, as may be reasonably requested by other Parties after the full execution of this Stipulation in order to effectuate the terms of this Stipulation.
- 39. <u>Counsel</u>. The Parties each acknowledges that they have each had the opportunity to consult with counsel of their own choice concerning the matters covered hereby and have received such counsel and information as each of them deem necessary for them to make a reasoned and thoughtful decision to execute this Stipulation.
- 40. <u>Nonsubstantive Modifications</u>. At any time prior to Final Court Approval, Trustee and Plaintiff, through their respective counsel, may jointly modify the terms of this Stipulation, provided that such modification shall not alter any substantive provision herein, and shall affect only administrative or procedural matters.
- 41. <u>Time is of Essence</u>. Time is of the essence in this Stipulation, and each deadline stated herein may be strictly enforced.

[SIGNATURES ARE SET FORTH ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]

///

WHEREFORE, the Parties have executed this Stipulation upon the terms and conditions set forth above.				
MICHAEL G. KASOLAS, Trustee		MICHAEL D. PODOLSKY, Plaintiff		
WEN	IDEL, ROSEN, BLACK & DEAN LLP	MEYERS LAW GROUP, P.C.		
Ву:	Mark S. Bostick, Esq. Counsel for Trustee	Ву:	Merle C. Meyers, Esq. Class Counsel	
СНА	VEZ & GERTLER LLP			
Ву:	Mark A. Chavez, Esq. Class Counsel			

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NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION AND CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

If you purchased bottles of wine from Premier Cru and have had your order filled but not delivered, you could receive money from a class action settlement.

A court authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

- A settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit that affects your rights. The settlement resolves a class action filed against the trustee appointed to manage the estate of Fox Ortega Enterprises, Inc., dba Premier Cru, which filed a voluntary chapter 7 petition for bankruptcy on January 8, 2016. The lawsuit disputes the assertion by the trustee, Michael G. Kasolas (the "Trustee"), of ownership of certain bottles of wine purchased by members of the class that were held in storage by Premier Cru at the time it declared bankruptcy and which the trustee intends to liquidate.
- The Court has not decided whether to finally approve the settlement. Relief will be made final only after the Court approves the settlement.

YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS					
Do Nothing	Do nothing. Receive your share of proceeds from the sale of the stored bottles. See section 13 below for more information about your settlement share.				
REDEEM SEGREGATED BOTTLES	Redeem bottles that were pulled from the shelves and segregated for delivery to you as of January 8, 2016, in addition to receiving your share of proceeds from the sale of other stored bottles. See section 10 below for more information about how to redeem bottles.				
OBJECT TO THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT	File an objection that the settlement is unfair or inadequate. See section 12 below.				
EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT	Opt out of the settlement. Receive no benefits from the settlement. See sections 10 and 11 below for more information about how to opt out and the consequences if you do so.				

Please read this notice carefully. It describes your rights, and the steps you have to take, if any, to receive money from the settlement or to exclude yourself from the lawsuit.

The date of this notice is June 3, 2016.

EXHIBIT B

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BASIC INFORMATION

1. Why did I receive this Notice?

Records show that you have purchased wine from Premier Cru (the "Debtor") and that the wine you purchased has been received but not shipped to you. A settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit filed against the trustee appointed to manage the chapter 7 estate of Premier Cru, which filed for bankruptcy on January 8, 2016. This settlement may affect your legal rights and you have choices to make. Judge William J. Lafferty, III of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California, who is overseeing this class action, has authorized that you be sent this notice. The settlement agreement and order approving it on a preliminary basis, has been posted on the website www.BMCGroup.com/PremierCru and can be reviewed there. The motion requesting final approval of the settlement agreement, together with supporting documents, will be posted on the website no later than June 15, 2016.

2. What is this class action about?

The class action, *Michael D. Podolsky v. Michael Kasolas, as Trustee*, Adversary Proceeding No. 16-04033 WJL, filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California, Oakland Division, disputes the assertion of the Trustee of ownership of bottles of wine stored by Premier Cru at the time it filed for bankruptcy. The lawsuit seeks to have the Bankruptcy Court quiet title in the bottles in favor of Premier Cru's customers, who have paid for but not received delivery of bottles that they ordered. The lawsuit is based on theories of special property, UCC identification, resulting trusts and other equitable remedies. The lawsuit also seeks to enjoin the trustee from selling the bottles.

3. How does the Trustee respond?

The Trustee has denied, and continues to deny, all of the allegations in the lawsuit. The Trustee contends that the bankruptcy estate owns all bottles of wine, and that he is therefore entitled to sell the bottles for the benefit of all unsecured creditors, whether or not they purchased those particular bottles.

4. What is a class action and who is involved?

In a class action lawsuit, one or more people called "class representatives" sue on behalf of other people who have similar claims. The class representative in this case is Michael D. Podolsky. The other individuals the class representatives represent constitute the "class" and are "class members." The class representative is also called the "plaintiff." The Trustee is the "defendant." The court resolves the issues for everyone in the class action except for those who request to exclude themselves, by "opting out."

5. What does the settlement provide?

The settlement provides for the sale of the wine held in the Trustee's possession to one or more bulk buyers. A portion of the proceeds from that sale will be distributed to class members that do not exclude themselves from this settlement. Class members whose wine had been designated and segregated for shipping or pickup as of January 8, 2016 will also have the opportunity to redeem those bottles.

Under the settlement, there are multiple categories of bottles: "Allocated Bottles," "New Bottles", "Purchased Bottles", "Oversubscribed Bottles," "Unassigned Bottles," "Segregated Bottles," and "Segregated Oversubscribed Bottles."

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- "Allocated Bottles" are those bottles as of January 8, 2016 for which there was a code entry in the Debtor's computer inventory system associating a wine by variety and vintage that was in the warehouse, with a particular purchaser or particular purchasers.
- "New Bottles" are any bottles received by Debtor within 90 days preceding the January 8, 2016, including a container shipment of bottles received by the Debtor as of November 12, 2015.
- "<u>Purchased Bottles</u>" are bottles in the warehouse that had been Allocated to specific customers' orders, or for which specific customers otherwise received notification of order fulfillment, other than New Bottles, with no competing purchasers.
- "Oversubscribed Bottles" are bottles in the warehouse corresponding to specific orders, other than New Bottles, that had been Allocated to more purchasers than bottles.
- "<u>Unassigned Bottles</u>" are bottles in the warehouse that were not Purchased Bottles, Oversubscribed Bottles, Segregated Bottles or New Bottles.
- "Segregated Bottles" are Purchased Bottles, and any other bottles that, although not Allocated, that have been designated for shipping to a particular customer without any competing purchasers, that were pulled off the shelves and segregated for delivery or pickup as of January 8, 2016.
- "Segregated Oversubscribed Bottles" are Oversubscribed Bottles that were pulled off the shelves and segregated for delivery or pickup as of the January 8, 2016.

Under the settlement, the Trustee will use his best efforts to obtain an aggregate, gross purchase price of no less than \$5,000,000 for all the bottles in the warehouse excluding the bottles allocated to those who have elected to exclude themselves from the settlement. The net proceeds of that sale will then be distributed to class members and to the bankruptcy estate, pursuant to various formulae set forth in the settlement. Those formulae will vary among different categories of bottles (e.g., Purchased Bottles, Oversubscribed Bottles, etc.), based on varying strengths of legal arguments pertaining to ownership and equitable remedies.

For more information on whether you are a class member, and on which categories of bottles correspond to your purchase orders, see section 9. For more information about the allocation of the proceeds from the sale, see section 13 below. For more information about how to redeem bottles, see section 10 below.

6. Why is the lawsuit being settled?

The legal arguments and disputes between the Trustee and the plaintiff, concerning ownership under the Uniform Commercial Code and various equitable remedy doctrines, are extremely complicated, numerous and difficult to resolve. In all likelihood, nonconsensual resolution of those disputes would consume many months or years of litigation, at much greater expense and at significant risk of loss. In addition, the bottles of wine in question would need to be stored and preserved at substantial cost throughout the litigation, and the Trustee's limited funds and other resources, and lack of long-term warehouse occupancy, would make such storage and preservation highly problematic and unlikely. As a result, at the end of the litigation, there might be nothing left of value to recover, despite prevailing on the issues.

For those reasons, the Bankruptcy Court urged the parties to enter into judicial mediation, and the Trustee and plaintiff, together with some individual class members, did so. In that mediation, supervised by a sitting bankruptcy judge, after extensive negotiations and the exchange of information and documents, the class

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plaintiff and the Trustee agreed to settle the claims rather than go to trial. The settlement represents a compromise of disputed claims and is not an admission by either the Trustee or the plaintiff as to ownership of the bottles. The parties and their attorneys believe that the settlement is in your best interests given the risks and expense of either litigating the class action further or your asserting your own ownership claims in the Bankruptcy Court.

7. Has the Court decided who is right?

No. The Court has not decided anything yet, only that you should get a copy of this notice so that you can decide whether to remain in the class, and so that you can review the settlement and determine whether you want to object or redeem bottles.

8. Who will administer the settlement?

The Trustee will administer the settlement, with the assistance of individuals familiar with the Debtor's inventory and computer systems. The Trustee is an independent person appointed by the Office of the United States Trustee (a division of the U.S. Department of Justice) to administer certain bankruptcy cases pending in the Bankruptcy Court. Any questions regarding determination of awards and allocations should be presented to the Trustee at the following email address: classactionquestions@premiercru.net.

YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS

9. Am I part of the class in this case?

The class certified by the Court consists of all persons who at any time (a) ordered wine from Debtor, (b) paid for their purchase(s), (c) received written notification from Debtor that their order(s) had been filled, or were otherwise "Allocated" a bottle of wine, and (d) whose wine remains in the custody and control of Trustee and is identifiable as corresponding to such order(s) in Debtor's computer inventory system.

Premier Cru's records indicate that you may be a member of the class.

How do I participate in the settlement?

You do not need to do anything to participate. You will automatically receive a settlement payment from the proceeds of the sale by the Trustee of the wine and release claims against the Trustee unless you request to be excluded from the lawsuit.

If you are eligible to redeem a bottle, you must submit your request to redeem the bottle that is received by the Trustee by July 5, 2016. You can check to see if you are eligible to redeem any bottles, and where to send your redemption request, by going to www.BMCGroup.com/PremierCru. You will need your account number in order to access your personal information. Only Segregated Bottles can be redeemed, and only by customers for whom those bottles were segregated. If you do not have your account number, you may obtain it from BMC Group, by emailing the noticing agent at Premiercru@bmcgroup.com, or by calling toll-free at 1 (888) 909-0100.

To redeem bottles, you must submit to the Trustee your written election, by downloading the appropriate form www.BMCGroup.com/PremierCru, to redeem a bottle together with a payment to Trustee of an amount equal to 20% of the price originally paid by that person to purchase the redeemed bottle, together with the sales taxes. You must also cause the redeemed bottle to be shipped to you prior to August 31, 2016, at your own cost of shipping and after payment of a reasonable handling fee to the trustee's bulk buyer. If you do not cause the

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bottle to be shipped by then, your right to that bottle will be forfeited and assigned to the Trustee, absent consent of the buyer and the Trustee. Moreover, you will have no right to reimbursement of any funds you paid to redeem a bottle.

If you have asserted, or wish to assert, your own ownership rights against the Trustee in the Bankruptcy Court, instead of participating in the settlement, see section 10 below to learn what you must do to be excluded from the settlement.

10. How do I request to be excluded from the lawsuit?

If you wish to be excluded from the lawsuit, you must write to the Trustee at the following address: P.O. Box 26650, San Francisco, CA 94126. Your request must include: (1) your name, (2) your address, (3) your dated signature, and (4) a written statement that you have reviewed this notice and wish to be excluded from the class. **To be effective, your request must be received by July 5, 2016.**

If you do not complete and timely mail a valid request to be excluded from the lawsuit, you will be bound by all terms and conditions of the settlement, including the release of claims set out in section 16. Alternatively, if you submit a timely and valid request to be excluded, you will not receive any money from the settlement, but you will retain the right to assert ownership of particular bottles of wine, as against the Trustee and other customers to whom those bottles were Allocated.

If the number of bottles allocated to individuals who opt out exceeds a certain percentage of the total bottles in the warehouse, the Trustee shall have the option to terminate the settlement in his sole discretion.

11. What happens next if I choose to exclude myself from the settlement?

If you choose to exclude yourself from the settlement, then any bottles that have been Allocated to you will not be sold by the Trustee, and they will instead be held by the Trustee, at least temporarily. You will then need to litigate your right to those bottles, either personally or through a lawyer, with the Trustee and with any competing purchasers, on your own in the Bankruptcy Court. Unless your assertion is quickly settled with the Trustee and any competing purchasers (likely on the same or lesser terms than the class settlement), the Trustee is likely to either abandon the bottles, leaving you to a dispute with other competing purchasers, or with the Debtor, or with the warehouse lessor, or condition his further preservation of the bottles on you funding the cost of that preservation in advance. You will then need to address both the costs and risks of your litigation and the cost of bottle preservation.

<u>Class Counsel strongly advise you against excluding yourself from the Class for those important reasons</u>. Class Counsel are available to discuss with you the risks and consequences of exclusion from the class. You may contact Class Counsel for that purpose at the addresses identified elsewhere in this notice.

You cannot object to the settlement <u>and</u> exclude yourself from the lawsuit – you can only do one or the other.

12. May I object to the settlement?

If you believe the settlement is unfair or inadequate, you may object, personally or through an attorney, by filing your objection with the Bankruptcy Court. You cannot object to the settlement <u>and</u> exclude yourself from the lawsuit – you can only do one or the other. Your objection must include: (1) your name, (2) the reasons why you object to the settlement, (3) a statement of whether you intend to appear at the final approval

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hearing, (4) a list of any documents or witnesses you contend support your objection, and (5) your dated signature. To be effective, your objection must be filed with the Bankruptcy Court by July 5, 2016. Do not telephone the Court or Trustee's counsel.

If the Court rejects your objection, you will still be bound by the terms of the settlement. You will not be able to exclude yourself from the settlement.

13. How will my share of the settlement be calculated?

Your share of the proceeds from the sale of the bottles will depend on a variety of factors, including how much you paid for the bottles and the category into which your bottles falls. For an estimate of your settlement share, please go to www.BMCGroup.com/PremierCru, where you will find instructions with which to make your calculation of recoveries. You will need your account number in order to access your personal information. If you do not have your account number, you may obtain it from BMC Group, by emailing the noticing agent at Premiercru@bmcgroup.com, or by calling toll-free at 1 (888) 909-0100. Please note that the amount you receive may be different depending on various factors, including the number of class members who request to be excluded from the class as well as the purchase price for which the bottles are sold. Neither the Trustee nor the class representative, nor any agent, counsel or representative, can provide certainty to you as to the actual distribution, and only an estimate is possible at this time.

14. Will I have to pay taxes on my award?

You should consult a tax professional for more information about your own specific situation.

15. When will I receive my payment?

Payments will be sent after the Court gives the settlement its final approval and the sale closes. If any objections are filed and an appeal is taken, if the sale is stayed by the Bankruptcy Court pending resolution of that appeal, or if the Trustee otherwise chooses to wait until resolution of the appeal before making distributions, then payments may be delayed until that appeal is resolved in favor of the settlement. The parties believe that such a delay is unlikely, but possible. Please be patient.

RELEASE OF CLAIMS

16. What claims are being released as part of the settlement?

Under the settlement, the Trustee will release all claims and causes of action, including without limitation any avoidance actions under Sections 544 *et seq.* of the Bankruptcy Code, against Class members solely to the extent that those claims or causes of action arise from or are related to such members' alleged rights or interests, or the creation of such rights or interests, in any bottles of wine that are the subject of this settlement.

Also, participating Class members' claims against the chapter 7 estate will be reduced by the mitigation of damages obtained through this settlement – by 80% of the original purchase price of Redeemed Bottles and by the amount of funds distributed to members. ANY CLASS MEMBERS WHO DO NOT AMEND THEIR PROOFS OF CLAIM BY OCTOBER 31, 2016 TO REFLECT SUCH REDUCTIONS WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE WITHDRAWN THOSE PROOFS OF CLAIM IN THEIR ENTIRETIES.

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THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

17. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

The Court has determined that the Meyers Law Group, P.C. and the law firm of Chavez & Gertler LLP are qualified to represent you and all of the class members. These firms are called "Class Counsel." The contact information for all counsel is set forth below in section 22.

18. May I get my own lawyer?

You do not need to hire your own lawyer because Class Counsel is working on your behalf. Nonetheless, you may hire your own lawyer if you wish. If you hire your own lawyer, you will be responsible for paying for that lawyer.

19. How will Class Counsel be paid?

You do not have to pay Class Counsel's fees and costs. The fees and expenses that the Court approves will be out of the proceeds of the sale of bottles. Class Counsel has reserved the right to seek up to 25% of the total proceeds to be distributed to class members from the sale of Purchased Bottles, Oversubscribed Bottles, Segregated Bottles and Segregated Oversubscribed Bottles. Class Counsel's motion for approval of those fees will be filed, and posted to the www.BMCGroup.com/PremierCru website. If you wish to object to the Class Counsel's fee motion, you must do so by filing the objection, and any supporting evidence or other documents, with the Bankruptcy Court by July 5, 2016. Class Counsel will reply to the objection by July 15, 2016, and the Bankruptcy Court will consider the motion and any objections on a preliminary basis on July 27, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

FINAL SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING

20. When will the Court consider whether to finally approve the settlement?

The Court will hold a hearing in Courtroom 220 of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California located at 1300 Clay Street, Oakland, California, 94612, on July 27, 2016 at 10:00 a.m, to decide whether to finally approve the settlement. At that time, the Court will also consider on a preliminary basis whether to approve Class Counsel's requests for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of costs.

It is not necessary for you to appear at this hearing. If you have timely submitted an objection to the settlement or to Class Counsel's fee motion, you may appear at the hearing to argue your objection to the Court.

The hearing may be postponed without further notice to the Class. If the settlement is not approved, the lawsuit will continue to be prepared for trial or other judicial resolution.

21. What if the proposed settlement is not approved?

If the proposed settlement is not granted final approval, the settlement class that has been preliminarily certified will be decertified, the class action will proceed without further notice, and none of the agreements set forth in this notice will be valid or enforceable.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

22. How do I get more information?

This notice provides a summary of the basic terms of the settlement. For the settlement's complete terms and conditions, please consult the settlement agreement, which is available online at www.BMCGroup.com/PremierCru. You will need your account number in order to access your personal information. If you do not have your account number, you may obtain it from BMC Group, by emailing the noticing agent at Premiercru@bmcgroup.com, or by calling toll-free at 1 (888) 909-0100.

You can also view the entire case file by visiting the clerk of the court located at 1300 Clay Street, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612, or by contacting Class Counsel at the addresses provided below:

CHAVEZ & GERTLER LLP

Mark A. Chavez 42 Miller Ave.

Mill Valley, CA 94941 Tel: (415) 381-5599

Fax: (415) 381-5572

Email: mark@chavezgertler.com

MEYERS LAW GROUP, P.C.

Merle C. Meyers Kathy Quon Bryant

44 Montgomery Street, Suite 1010

San Francisco, CA 94104 Tel: (415) 362-7500 Fax: (415) 362-7515

Fax: (415) 362-7515 Email: mmeyers@meyerslawgroup.com

kquonbryant@meyerslawgroup.com

PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE OR WRITE THE COURT, THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK, THE TRUSTEE, OR COUNSEL FOR THE TRUSTEE FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT.

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Notice Recipients

District/Off: 0971-4 User: dpassador Date Created: 6/1/2016

Case: 16-04033 Form ID: pdfeoapc Total: 2

Attn: Mark S. Bostick, Esq. 1111

Recipients submitted to the BNC (Bankruptcy Noticing Center):

dft Michael Kasolas c/o Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean LLP
Broadway 24th Fl. Oakland, CA 94607–4036
aty Mark A. Chavez Chavez & Gertler LLP 42 Miller

42 Miller Ave. Mill Valley, CA 94941

TOTAL: 2