

## **Renowned wine, beverage and entertainment expert settles in Waterloo as the new owner of Sugarbush Guest House Bed & Breakfast**

*Move over wine snobs – here comes Sandi Marques!*

**Waterloo – November 21, 2007** – Sandi Marques, founder of **Cork and Karma Inc.**, a popular wine and beverage entertainment company, has returned to her tri-city roots. A native of Cambridge, she is the new owner of Sugarbush Guest House Bed & Breakfast in Waterloo.

“It’s so good to be home where it all started for me at Langdon Hall back in 1987. Now, between my B&B and **Cork and Karma**, I’m living my dream – earning a living through hospitality, entertaining and booze!” joked Marques.

Ms. Marques is an accredited sommelier, entertainer and consultant, and one of a handful of accredited Canadian wine appraisers. Her highly passionate outlook on wine, food and life will offer the Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge communities an exceptional opportunity to learn more about the pleasures of wine and other alcohols – in unique and unforgettable ways.

She returns to the area from Montreal, where her down-to-earth and entertaining approach to wine and beverage education, coupled with her years of experience and training, established her quickly as a top-level beverage and entertainment expert. Within months of starting **Cork and Karma**, she was profiled on the front page of the [Montreal Gazette’s Business Section](#).

“Knowing what wine to pour for your clients or guests is only the beginning,” says Marques. “There’s so much more you can do to impress, engage and entertain – even for those who don’t drink.”

After laying the foundation for her company in corporate and personal wine tastings, **Cork and Karma**’s services have grown to include tastings of champagne, spirits, beer, cognac and scotch. Martini and cocktail parties are always on the menu, and for individuals who are ahead in their wine appreciation, wine cellar consulting is a specialty.

“Wine is a metaphor for life. Being able to discern and savour the complexity and nuance of wine in a glass enhances our appreciation of life’s other bounties – like family, friends and a good meal,” added Marques.

Ms. Marques’ education and entertainment credentials span the spectrum – from large corporate events with renowned Bob Proctor and Maximilian Riedel to intimate personal affairs, from open public forums to exclusive business meetings, from blue-jean casual to white tie formal, Fortune 500 to Mom & Pop’s 50<sup>th</sup>. She tailors her approach and content to each scenario – from business entertaining or client appreciation, to team building, gala fundraisers and home parties. And people are always amazed at how much fun, knowledge and zest for life they take away after seeing Sandi in action!

Ms. Marques holds a business degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Ryerson University and a Culinary Diploma from George Brown College. A member of the prestigious International Sommelier Guild, she is one of an elite few Canadian sommeliers with a culinary diploma, extensive experience in the hospitality and restaurant business, and who is also an accredited wine appraiser with the Canadian Personal Property Appraisers Group.

Ms. Marques' quirky approach to wine education has influenced thousands, through a multitude of media – corporate and private speaking engagements, teaching wine appreciation at John Abbott College in Montreal, training aspiring sommeliers in the Algonquin College Sommelier program in Ottawa, numerous appearances on television and radio – including guest hosting on 'Table Talk,' 940 Montreal's food style talk show – regular contributions to a local newspaper and appearing in the June, 2007 issue of Chatelaine Magazine.

Her web site [www.corkandkarma.com](http://www.corkandkarma.com) offers an interactive web log with regular postings on the latest wine news, tips, trends and other related topics.

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