



## VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Pinecrest to celebrate sister city status with Cognac, France with day of all things French in Pinecrest Gardens*

**Pinecrest, Fla.** – Pinecrest will celebrate its sister city status with Cognac, France with day full of all things French in Pinecrest Gardens. Cognac Day will be celebrated with a French-themed concert by the Greater Miami Youth Symphony, French crepes by the Crepe Maker, and a proclamation in honor of the Village's sister city relationship with Cognac, France. The celebration will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 15th in Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 Red Road. Admission is free.

Cognac is typically described by the aroma of flowers, fruits, nuts and spices. These smells are similar to what one encounters in Pinecrest Gardens, making it the perfect venue to celebrate the third annual Cognac Day. Only a specific type of brandy made in the Cognac region of France can be labeled as cognac under European Union rules.

The benefits of being a sister city with Cognac, France include student exchange programs, tourism and business promotions. The first Pinecrest-Cognac exchange students are expected to travel abroad early next year.

Pinecrest and Cognac are comparable cities in that they have about 19,000 residents each, both have residents with high levels of education and are both sustainability pioneers.

Pinecrest and Cognac's friendship stems from a chance meeting between Pinecrest Mayor Cindy Lerner and Cognac Mayor Michel Gourinchas and his delegation February 2012 at a luncheon sponsored by the Miami chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier International. Les Dames (French for "The Women") is an organization of women leaders in food, wine, hospitality, and farming.

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Two days, Mayor Lerner invited Mayor Gourinchas and his delegation to Pinecrest so that they can learn a little more about each other's communities. That day the Village welcomed Mayor Gourinchas and his delegation with a proclamation designating February 15, 2012 as Cognac Day.

Pinecrest's sister city status with Cognac was formalized in 2013 when Mayor Gourinchas visited Pinecrest for the second time February 15th on Cognac Day and signed a formal agreement along with Mayor Lerner.

### **About Pinecrest Gardens**

Pinecrest Gardens is a premier venue for the arts, education and environmental conservation and preservation. It boasts 14 acres of native forested wetland, tropical hardwood hammock and native cypress slough hammock, attracting over 150,000 visitors per year. In October 2011, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places making it historically significant on a local, state and national platform.

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