

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ceramic Tile and Stone Consultants (CTaSC) Announces Winners of U.S. Stone Survey Contest

SAN DIEGO (January 8, 2006) -- Ceramic Tile and Stone Consultants, LLC (CTaSC), a national company providing marketing research and business planning services, announced today that Bob Traxler, president of Arizona Tile, Phoenix, AZ and Larry Mattero, general manager of Marble Crafters Inc., Trainer, PA, are the winners of Apple iPod nanos for their participation in the recent U.S. Stone Survey.

The winners were randomly chosen from a record number of industry members that completed the U.S. Stone Survey that was conducted last fall by CTaSC. Over 2,000 manufacturers, quarries, exporters, importers, distributors, fabricators and retailers were invited to take the stone survey developed by CTaSC using progressive online technology that ensured the confidentiality of all participants by compiling data anonymously. Each person who completed the survey will receive a free summary of the survey results.

Participants answered a series of questions based upon their business category. Importers, distributors and retailers were quizzed on the types of stone they carry, slab and tile sizes, sales by type of customers and sales by types of applications. Fabricators were asked to answer questions about their fabrication business, including shop size, equipment brands and value, purchase and selling price of stone, annual sales, and types of products and stone that are fabricated. Each group was asked to indicate their business performance during 2005 and their forecast for next year.

Donato Pompo, owner of CTaSC, underscored the importance of the information gathered from the survey by stating, "In-depth information about the stone industry is very hard to come by." He added, "It's vital for all of us to know what's going on in the market." Pompo cited the difficulty in pinpointing the amount of slab versus tile sold in the U.S. since much of imported stone is not clearly differentiated by size when it enters the country, so the survey allows CTaSC to extrapolate that information.

This is the second time CTaSC has conducted a stone survey (the first was in 2003). CTaSC's partner, Catalina Research, a prominent research firm for the tile and stone industries, will incorporate the stone survey findings into the *2006 Stone Study* that will be released in early February. For information and pricing, please contact CTaSC at 619/669-2967 or at the website www.CTaSC.com.

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