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## **CLASSIC WINES AUCTION ANNOUNCES 2009 AWARD WINNERS AND HONORARY WINE AMBASSADORS**

*Awards recognize individuals who have helped build Oregon's wine industry; Portland Restaurateur David Machado prepares dinner for 750 at 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala auction*

PORTLAND, OR. – (March 3, 2009) – Heather Martin, executive director of Classic Wines Auction, Inc. recently announced the winners of the 2009 ORVI, VINI and KOERNER ROMBAUER awards to be presented at the 2009 Ambassadors Dinner on Friday, March 6, 2009 at the Portland Art Museum. Martin also announced the line-up of 2009 wine ambassadors to be honored at the event. The Ambassadors Dinner is part of the weeklong wine and food events culminating in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala dinner auction on Saturday, March 7 at the Oregon Convention Center. For more information, please visit [www.classicwinesauction.com](http://www.classicwinesauction.com).

### **2009 AWARD WINNERS:**

- **ORVI AWARD: Earl Jones of Abacela Winery**

This award recognizes individuals and/or families who have helped build the Oregon wine industry's worldwide reputation. This year's winner is Earl Jones of Abacela Winery. Jones took on the challenge to produce fine Spanish style Tempranillo in the US. His search eventually led to Southern Oregon where the requisite, continental-maritime climate, suitable land and availability of irrigation water were found. In 1992, Jones walked away from the security of academia, purchased 500 acres in the Umpqua Valley and relocated his family 2, 700 miles west to plant a vineyard and begin a new career. Recent ORVI winners include: Bethel Heights, Susan Sokol Blosser, David Adelsheim and Ken Wright.

- **VINI AWARD: Dan Agnew**

This award recognizes individuals who have used their enthusiasm and support of viticulture to create an environment where the enjoyment of wine can flourish. This year, Dan Agnew will receive the award for his work as co-chair of the Classic Wines Auction in 2008 and his support of the auction since the mid-1990s, investing both financial capital and human capital to support children and families. Agnew has been involved in the beverage distributing business for over 20 years through Mt. Hood Distributing and now COHO Distributing. Recent VINI winners include: Wally Rhines, Bob Miller, Denny and Diane Rawlinson, and Ed Maletis.

- **KOERNER ROMBAUER AWARD FOR SERVICE: Dan and Sallie Dutton**

This award recognizes individuals who have consistently served, funded and supported the Classic Wines Auction and its benefiting charities. Created two years ago, this award will be presented to Dan and Sallie Dutton who have been involved with the Classic Wines Auction for over 10 years, and Dan served as a Chair in 1998 and 1999. Dan and Sallie have helped to elevate the quality and stature of the auction through their dedication and commitment of financial and human resources.

### **WINE AMBASSADORS ADD WORLD CLASS PANACHE TO EVENT**

The honorary wine ambassadors serve as hosts for the Ambassador Dinner the Friday evening prior to the Auction, and provide wines to be served at the Friday night dinner and Gala Auction. This honorary distinction is given each year to a designated winery in Oregon, Washington, and California, as well as to an international ambassador. The 2009 Wine Ambassadors include Grace and Ken Evenstad from Domaine Serene in Oregon's Willamette Valley, Champagne Louis Roederer (Reims, France), Long Shadow Vintners in Washington and Pride Mountain Vineyards in Napa, California. Kenny Giambalvo, chef and co-owner of bluehour, and his friend

Josie Le Balch, executive chef and co-owner of Josie Restaurant in Santa Monica, will prepare the Ambassador Dinner.

#### **RESTAURATEUR DAVID MACHADO PREPARES AUCTION DINNER FOR 800**

The Classic Wines Auction is honored to partner with David Machado, executive chef and owner of Lauro Mediterranean Kitchen and Vindalho in Portland, Oregon. In May 2009 Machado unveils downtown Portland's newest restaurant, Nel Centro featuring the sensuous cuisine of the Riviera. Nel Centro is in the heart of the arts and theatre district adjacent to the popular Hotel Modera. At the convention center, Machado will partner with his long-time friend Jesus Cibrian, the executive chef for Aventura Catering at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona. "The collaboration between these two seasoned chefs will give our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event a special touch," said Martin. "They both bring a commitment to local and seasonal products and have the experience to serve over 750 people at our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event." Machado has received acclaims for his two restaurants in *Esquire*, *Food Arts*, *Food & Wine*, *Bon Appetit* and the *Washington Post*. He is also a guest instructor at the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone and the California Culinary Academy. Chef Cibrian has over 20 years experience producing top quality cuisine in large venues and was the executive chef for the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, overseeing a crew of 300 and serving up to 100,000 meals each day. He has also been involved with the Oscar awards.

#### **About Classic Wines Auction:**

Based in Portland, Oregon, the Classic Wines Auction, Inc., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to producing the Classic Wines Auction and related food and wine events to raise funds for local charities benefiting children and families. Named as one of the top ten charity wine auctions for the past seven years by *Wine Spectator* Magazine, CWA has raised almost \$19.5 million for Portland area charities since its inception in 1982. For more information, please visit [www.classicwinesauction.com](http://www.classicwinesauction.com) or call 503-972-0194.