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CLASSIC WINES AUCTION AND REX HILL VINEYARDS CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY WITH COMMEMORATIVE MAGNUMS TO RAISE MONEY FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

25th Anniversary Magnums feature 2007 Rex Hill Willamette Valley Pinot Noir from Rex Hill and artwork by famed artist, Michele Russo; Original Russo painting part of live auction at Gala Auction on March 7, 2009

Editor's Note: Photographs available of magnums and original Michele Russo painting.

PORTLAND, Oregon – (January 13, 2009) –Both the Classic Wines Auction and Rex Hill Vineyard started down parallel paths as pioneers in Oregon's burgeoning wine industry 25 years ago. In 1982, the wine auction started with only 25 volunteers and raised \$9,000 in its first year, and Rex Hill planted its first Pinot Noir grape vines. Now, 25 years later and still going strong, the Classic Wines Auction has raised more than \$19.4 million for local charities and has more than 350 volunteers who donate their time to organize the Gala Auction, winemaker dinners, the Ambassador Dinner and a host of other wine events. Rex Hill, now owned by A to Z Wineworks which was founded by two local winemaking families, currently produces 18,000 cases of wine. Rex Hill crafted a special cuvee for a limited edition magnum featuring 2007 Rex Hill Willamette Valley Pinot Noir and honoring the 25th anniversaries of both Rex Hill and the Classic Wines Auction. Priced at \$250 each, the 200 magnums boast a bold Michele Russo painting etched on the bottle and donated by the Laura Russo Gallery. To pre-purchase one of the limited edition 25th anniversary magnums, please call the Classic Wines Auction at 503-972-0194 or visit www.classicwinesauction.com or visit Rex Hill Vineyards and Winery off Highway 99W outside of Newberg (503-538-0666). Magnums will be available starting February 1, 2009.

"We are thrilled to partner with Classic Wines Auction and celebrate all the families and children helped by auction proceeds over the last 25 years," says Deb Hatcher, co-owner of Rex Hill Vineyards and A to Z Wineworks. "Oregon's wine and restaurant industry has exploded over the last few decades and the Classic Wines Auction has been there with us to build on a supportive – and generous -- community of winemakers, chefs, and volunteers."

About Michele Russo

An instructor for 27 years in art history, painting, and drawing at PNCA (then known as the Museum Art School), Michele Russo passed away in August 2004, at the age of 95. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy of artistic integrity and civic engagement — as a cofounder of the Portland Center for the Visual Arts and Oregon Artists Equity; as the first artist to serve on the Metropolitan Arts Commission; and as a driving force behind the 1% for Public Art program.

Throughout his life, Michele was a catalyst — inspiring, criticizing, challenging, and prodding students and colleagues, friends and family alike. "As a critical eye, Michele changed or shaped everyone he came into contact with," says Bruce Guenther, chief curator of the Portland Art Museum. Even Michele's paintings were somewhat iconoclastic in an era dominated by Abstract Expressionism, his canvases peopled with simple, graphic figures frolicking or reclining on beaches, playing with props such as hats and canes.

About Rex Hill Vineyards and Winery

Rex Hill was founded in 1982 with the planting of the first vineyard on the estate at the gateway to the Northern Willamette Valley. The winery, with its beautiful tasting room, was built around an old fruit and nut drying facility and opened in 1985. Always focused on high quality Pinot Noir, Rex Hill has a 25-year old library of Oregon vintages and large bottles.

In 2007, A to Z Wineworks (the William Hatcher Family, the Francis Tannahills, and a few partners including Gregg Popovich) purchased Rex Hill Vineyards and Winery bringing fresh enthusiasm and energy to the properties while strengthening both brands. A constant focus on quality is first and foremost. Committed to biodynamic farming and sustainable business practices, the two families also brought wine education to Rex Hill which offers classes and seminars to professionals and the public. For more information, visit www.rexhill.com.

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 over \$19.4 million for Portland area charities since its inception in 1982. The 2009 Classic Wines Auction will take place Saturday, March 7, 2009. Charity partners for 2009 include Friends of the Children-Portland, Metropolitan Family Service, Trillium Family Services, New Avenues for Youth and YWCA Clark County. For more information, please visit. www.classicwinesauction.com or call 503-972-0194.