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CLASSIC WINES AUCTION REACHES 25TH ANNIVERSARY MILESTONE WITH GALA AUCTION DATE SET FOR MARCH 7, 2009

Honorary Wine Ambassadors represent Domaine Serene, Champagne Louis Roederer, Long Shadows Vintners and Pride Mountain Vineyards; 25th Anniversary Magnums feature Pinot Noir from Rex Hill and original art by Michele Russo

Editor's Note: A photograph is available of the Michele Russo painting donated for the auction and etched into the commemorative magnums.

PORTLAND, Oregon – (October 29, 2008) – The Classic Wines Auction has garnered a secure spot as one of the country's most prestigious wine auctions and has continually been honored on *Wine Spectator's* top ten charity auction list. As the Classic Wines Auction heads into its 25th anniversary year, the momentum is building for a Gala Auction on March 7, 2009 that will surpass all others. A devoted team of honorary past co-chairs has come together to make the 25th anniversary auction a special tribute to both the wine and philanthropic communities. Proceeds from all the 25th anniversary events, including the Gala Auction, will benefit Friends of the Children – Portland, Metropolitan Family Service, New Avenues for Youth, Trillium Family Services and YWCA Clark County.

"We are gearing up for a successful 25th anniversary auction and hope to break all our previous records to help even more children and families in Portland and SW Washington, said Heather Martin, executive director of Classic Wines Auction. "Not only do we have the support of past event chairs, but many others are stepping forward to participate as well."

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.

PORTLAND RESTAURATEUR BRINGS DECADES OF EXPERIENCE TO GALA AUCTION DINNER

The Classic Wines Auction is honored to partner with David Machado, executive chef and owner of Lauro Mediterranean Kitchen and Vindalho in Portland, Oregon. Machado will work 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 25th anniversary event a special touch," said Martin. "They both bring a commitment to local and seasonal products and have the experience to serve over 800 people at our 25th 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.

FALL OREGON BOUNTY WINEMAKER DINNER SERIES

Classic Wines Auction produces the Oregon Bounty Winemaker Dinner series featuring three days of winemaker dinners at restaurants throughout Oregon. Each restaurant will be paired with an Oregon winery for a private dinner to benefit Classic Wines Auction and its charities. The dinners take place on Tuesday, November 11-13, 2008 and are \$150 per person, including a multi-course dinner with wines. For reservations, please call 503-972-0194 or visit www.classicwinesauction.com.

FORWARD TO 2009! COMMEMORATIVE MAGNUMS, SPRING WINEMAKER DINNERS AND MORE...

The 25th anniversary committee has partnered with Deb and Bill Hatcher of Rex Hills Vineyard to produce commemorative magnums bottled with 2007 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir to raise money for the benefiting charities. An etching by renowned artist Michele Russo will be featured on each of the 200 magnums. In addition, the original artwork will be offered in the live auction portion of the Gala Auction.

Additional wine and food events will be announced, including Taste Walla Walla and the 2009 Spring Winemaker Dinner Series featuring 33 of Portland's finest restaurants including Paley's Place, Sel Gris, Lucier, and the Heathman Restaurant and Bar paired with winemakers from wine regions around the Pacific Northwest and California. Please visit www.classicwinesauction.com for updates and reservation information.

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. For more information, please visit www.classicwinesauction.com or call 503-972-0194.