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Contact:

Andrea Steffy, Gravina, Smith & Matte Marketing and Public Relations, 239-275-5758,
asteffy@gravinasmith.com

World's Finest Vintners Open Their Estates and Offer Their Most Precious Wines to Bidders at 10th Naples Winter Wine Festival

NAPLES, Fla. (Nov. 19, 2009) – For wine lovers, the allure of bidding on the world's finest wines will be ratcheted up to the stratosphere at the 10th Naples Winter Wine Festival, to be held Jan. 29-31. Attendees of the nation's most successful charity wine auction will have the opportunity to possess rare, highly rated, never-before-available collections of wine coupled with unprecedented vintner access: overnight stays at their estates, tours, tastings and dining experiences personally led by vintners themselves. For auction-lot winners, these will be once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to not only own some of the finest wines in the world, but to also be treated almost like members of vintners' families at their private estates and wineries.

"We are thankful for the participation of many of the best vintners in the world and the offering of some of the finest wines ever produced to enrich our festival," said The Honorable Francis Rooney, 2010 festival chair with his wife Kathleen, trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation, which founded the festival. "Vintners have helped the festival raise more than \$74 million to date for underprivileged and at-risk children. They, like many other festival supporters, are digging even deeper to give this year because they understand that children need help now more than ever."

According to NCEF Trustee Scott Lutgert, who also serves as vintner lot chairman, the 2010 vintner-donated lots are causing a stir among patrons. "When I told them we would be auctioning off a vertical of Champagne Salon Cuvée S, 9-liter bottles of 2005 Château Haut-Brion and 2005 Château La Mission Haut-Brion, and all four of Harlan Estates' 100-point wines, their mouths dropped in amazement. And those are just a few of the extraordinary wines and experiences up for auction."

A sampling of vintner-donated lots that include ultimate insider experiences:

Lot 19, Blowin' In the Wind, offers two rare Double Magnums of France's Château de Beaucastel Hommage à Jacques Perrin, pure-perfection vintages that have earned 100-point scores from The Wine Advocate. The wine's proprietors, the Perrin family, invite the winning bidders to enjoy a two-night stay for two couples on their property in the picturesque village of Vinsobres, a town solely dedicated to the making of wine. The wine holiday also includes dinner in the private dining room of the Perrin's chateau prepared by Beaucastel's chef.

Lot 26, The Noblest of the Noble, offers Burgundy enthusiasts a one-of-a-kind Jeroboam – the equivalent of four standard bottles – of famed Domaine Ponsot's flagship wine, Clos de la Roche Cuvée Vieilles Vignes, from the heralded, 96-point, 2007 vintage. Fewer than 100 cases of this world-class wine are produced each vintage. The lot includes two nights at the exclusive Hôtel de Beaune in Beaune, France for two couples; personally guided tours of Domaine Ponsot's 150-year old vineyards, winery and cellars with fourth-generation proprietor Laurent Ponsot. He will also host the winners at a seven-course dinner at the family estate, prepared by Michelin-star Chef David Zuddas and paired with Domaine Ponsot wines.

Lot 38, Hill of Dreams, presents an extremely rare vertical of Colgin Cellars' vintages: three etched and numbered Double Magnums of 2003, 2004 and 2005 Tychson Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon. For three of the winning bidders, gourmet kitchen duty is in store when they spend an afternoon cooking

alongside world famous chef Thomas Keller of The French Laundry. That evening, vintner Ann Colgin and Joe Wender will host three couples at their Tychson Hill Estate for an exquisite dinner of The French Laundry cuisine along with wines from their personal cellar.

Lot 41, Design Star, is a collection of four Double Magnums representing the four most highly regarded vintages from Harlan Estate – 1994, 1997, 2001 and 2002. Also included are three nights for four couples at Meadowood Napa Valley and dinner for all the winners with Deborah and Bill Harlan at Harlan Estate along with a winery tour and tasting.

Lot 44, Imperial Performance, holds a rare collection of four large format bottles of Araujo Estate's highly prized vintages: two Imperials of the 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2007 Sauvignon Blanc and two Jeroboams of the 2005 Syrah and 2007 Viognier. The winning bidder's group of 10 will be treated to dinner with proprietors Daphne and Bart Araujo at their estate in Napa Valley. The private dinner will be prepared by the culinary staff of The French Laundry and accompanied by Araujo wines.

Lot 48, Neoclassical Music, holds eight bottles of Peter Michael Winery's handcrafted wines – four Magnums each of the highly praised and complex vintages of Les Pavots Cabernet Sauvignon and Point Rouge Chardonnay. Completing the lot is a two-night stay for four couples at private residences on the Peter Michael Estate in Sonoma's Knight's Valley, with a private wine tasting and vineyard tour. A dinner is also included at the estate's Calvin Holmes Suite hosted by winemaker Nicolas Morlet.

Lot 49, In the Cellars of Kings, is an extraordinary Burgundy adventure from the Drouhin family of Maison Joseph Drouhin. Included are eight magnums from Drouhin's most acclaimed vineyards: a Grand Cru and a Premier Cru from the 2007 vintage, a 2006 Corton Charlemagne and a 2004 Vosne-Romanée Petits Monts. In addition, two couples will spend two nights in Beaune, France and be treated to a private tour of Drouhin's historic caves and a special tasting of cellar wines with Véronique Drouhin-Boss, Drouhin's winemaker. She and her husband will also host a special dinner in their 13th century cellar, the Caves du Parlement. Capping off the experience is a tour of the vineyards of Burgundy with Véronique and Michael, with stops for lunch at a favorite bistro and dinner at a top Côte d'Or restaurant.

Lot 58, The Tuscan Way, is a rare opportunity to experience Tuscany as the Antinori family has for generations and enjoy their wines. The trip through the Chianti and Bolgheri wine regions for two couples includes a two-night stay at the Antinori family's Fonte de' Medici Agriturismo and two nights at the Tombolo Talasso Resort. Also included is a tour of the vineyards and cellars of the family's Tignanello Estate, with a special tasting of Antinori wines and private lunch in Antinori's Villa Tignanello; and a private cellar-and-vineyard tour and tasting at Antinori's Guado al Tasso Estate before a private lunch at Antinori's home. The winners will take home a Double Magnum of Antinori's 1997 Solaia and Imperials of both the 2000 Tignanello and the 2003 Solaia.

A sampling of wine-only auction lots:

Lot 1, Salon Select, holds an extraordinary collection of six bottles of Champagne Salon Cuvée S from 1982 through 1997 – the most significant vintages of that time period. Each bottle has been specially labeled for the festival's 10th anniversary.

Lot 8, Have a Heart, holds twin 9 liter Salamanazars from the 2007 vintage of Grace Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon. The bottles are etched and hand painted with the logos of the charities that the Naples Winter Wine Festival has supported. These rarest of the rare bottles are produced solely for donation at charity auctions.

Lot 10, Anniversary Present, is a Vintners' Magnum collection of the best from the festival's 30 vintners, a cross-section of some of the greatest wines ever produced.

Lot 16, One Word Says it All, features a collection of highly prized Château Lafite Rothschild beginning with the 1985 vintage and including a 6 liter 1999. The lot also includes three one-of-a-kind frames of Lafite Rothschild wine labels from the mid-1800s through 1990.

Lot 20, Imperial Power, comprises a never-before-offered collection of six Imperials of Shafer Vineyards Hillside Select Cabernet Sauvignon, one each from 2000 to 2005. All highly rated vintages, the 2002 received a rare, perfect score of 100 points from Robert Parker, Jr.

Lot 22, The Sweet Sixteen, comes courtesy of The Rusty Staub Foundation and holds 16 – 3 liter notable French Burgundies from winemakers and domains that are the best Burgundy has to offer.

Lot 33, The Big Lot, holds the largest collection of fine wine in the auction: 100 bottles of some of Australia's finest wine, including a 52 bottle 12-year vertical of Penfolds Grange – arguably Australia's most famous wine – and a rare 12-year vertical of Henschke's legendary Hill of Grace Shiraz.

Lot 46, As Good as It Gets, features a 9 liter 2005 Château Haut-Brion, a wine rated 100 points by both *Wine Spectator* and Robert Parker, Jr., and a 9 liter 2005 Château La Mission Haut-Brion, which was given a 97-point score. Each is one of only 15 bottles of this size produced by Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion.

Details about all 61 auction lots can be found on the festival's Web site www.napleswinefestival.com.

The Naples Winter Wine Festival has been ranked by *Wine Spectator* magazine as the nation's top charity wine auction since 2004. The festival spans three days. It begins with a Friday tour of children's charities that benefit from festival proceeds followed by a luncheon wine tasting with highly regarded vintners. In the evening, intimate vintner dinners will be held at 15 NCEF trustees' homes with cuisine prepared by top U.S. chefs and paired with wines poured by internationally renowned vintners. On Saturday, The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples, hosts a culinary showcase followed by the world-class auction of one-of-a-kind lots. That evening, guests celebrate at a Wine Down party and the festival concludes with a Sunday brunch.

Festival ticket packages are \$7,500 per couple; \$20,000 for reserved seating at the same vintner dinner for two couples. For a schedule of 2010 festivities and more information about the Naples Winter Wine Festival, please visit www.napleswinefestival.com, or call the wine festival office at 888-837-4919.