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GLOBAL VINTNER GREATS TO DECANT, SWIRL AND SIP AT 2009 NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL

NAPLES, Fla. (Sept. 16, 2008) – The crème de la crème of global vintners will pour their finest vintages and offer their exceptional wines for auction at the ninth annual Naples Winter Wine Festival, to be held Feb. 6-8 in Naples, Fla. Among the 28 participating vintners are Screaming Eagle, Peter Michael, Harlan Estate, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Veuve Clicquot and Torbreck. The vintner lineup is one of the most diverse ever for the festival, representing very different wine styles, with wines produced from a wide variety of grapes, and grown in vineyards in North America, Europe, Australia and South America.

"All of these vintners have stellar reputations for producing the highest quality wines year in and year out," said Tom Galloway, co-chairman of the 2009 festival with his wife, Connie, and both of whom are trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), which founded the festival. "Their generous support is a large part of our being the world's most successful charity wine festival in the world." Galloway added, "We are honored to have so many vintners returning for the 2009 festival, and we are very pleased to welcome nine vintners for the very first time."

2009 Naples Winter Wine Festival Participating Vintners

Marilisa Allegrini Laura Catena and Nicolás Catena

Allegrini Catena Zapata Italy Argentina

Daphne and Bart Araujo
Araujo Estate Wines
Calistoga, California
Colgin Cellars
St. Helena, California

Alexandra Marnier Lapostolle Tim and Margrit Mondavi

Casa Lapostolle Continuum
Chile Oakville, California

ile Oakville, Californ

(more)

2-2-2/Global Vintner Greats to Decant, Swirl and Sip at 2009 Naples Winter Wine Festival

Jean-Guillaume Prats Château Cos d'Estournel

France

Aubert de Villaine

Domaine de la Romanée-Conti

France

Grace and Ken Evenstad

Domaine Serene Dayton, Oregon

Daniel Ravier
Domaine Tempier

France

Peter Sisseck Dominio de Pingus

Spain

Valerie Boyd and Jeff Gargiulo

Gargiulo Vineyards Napa Valley, California

Ann and Dick Grace Grace Family Vineyards St. Helena, California

Deborah and Bill Harlan

Harlan Estate

Oakville, California

Larry Hyde HdV Wines Napa, California

Salvatore Ferragamo

Il Borro Italy Frank Grace Il Molino di Grace

Italy

Jeanne and Gary Newman Jorian Hill Vineyard Solvang, California

Louis Kapcsándy, Jr. Kapcsándy Family Winery Yountville, California

Sir Peter Michael Peter Michael Winery Calistoga, California

Dr. Madaiah Revana Revana Family Vineyard St. Helena, California

Ali and Charles Banks Screaming Eagle Oakville, California

Barbara and John Shafer

Shafer Vineyards

Napa Valley, California

Karen and Stuart Sloan

Sloan Estate

Napa Valley, California

Shari and Garen Staglin Staglin Family Vineyard Rutherford, California

David Powell Torbreck Australia

(more)

3-3-3/Global Vintner Greats to Decant, Swirl and Sip at 2009 Naples Winter Wine Festival

Dominique Demarville and Jacques Péters Veuve Clicquot

France

Delia Viader Viader Napa Valley, California

Honored Winemaker for 776 Years

Among participating vintners, Aubert de Villaine of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti in France has been selected as the festival's Honored Vintner for 2009. The designation pays tribute to a vintner whose winery has a large impact on its home region and has achieved world wide recognition for quality wine production. "Each vintner is an absolute stand out, and singling out any one for special recognition is a difficult task," said Scott Lutgert, vintner committee chairman and NCEF trustee. "Aubert de Villaine of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti hails from a vineyard that dates back to 1232, and during the last 776 years, the many stewards of the land have never failed to produce the purest quality wine. That is a feat few can lay claim to, and we are privileged to name Aubert de Villaine the Honored Vintner for the 2009 festival."

At the 2008 festival, 32 vintners participated and \$14 million was raised at auction in four hours, with vintners' lots a big draw for bidders. Vintners donated auction lots of rare wines combined with one-of-a-kind experiences that captured winning bids from \$60,000 to \$1 million. A vintner collection lot—an etched bottle from each participating vintner—was auctioned off for \$150,000. "A single bid will fund after-school academic programs for 800 children in the impoverished town of Immokalee, Fla.; provide every second-through-fourth grader in Collier County's low-income schools with 10 age-appropriate books; and will allow 500 economically needy children the gift of clear vision by providing them with new eyeglasses," said Connie Galloway. "These are children who face incredible odds because of poverty, broken homes and street violence. The festival is about giving children like them a fighting chance to lead happy, productive lives."

(more)

Festival Events

The festival begins with guests touring children's charities that benefit from charity-auction proceeds, followed by a lunch and wine tasting guided by some of California's finest vintners. Friday evening vintner dinners are hosted by trustees in their homes, with themed décor that relates to the 2009 festival theme of Dreams Do Come True. A vintner and celebrity chef team up to present a five-to-seven course dining experience in each home that features a special wine selection for each course. On Saturday, guests enjoy a culinary showcase, wine tasting and the world-class wine auction held on the grand lawn of The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples. On Saturday evening, a laid-back "wine"-down party closes the day, and on Sunday guests attend a final celebration brunch.

The Naples Winter Wine Festival is ranked by the Luxury Institute as a top 10 arts and entertainment event for wealthy Americans, and since 2004, Wine Spectator magazine lists it as the nation's top charity wine auction. The festival was founded by and is hosted annually in Naples, Fla., by trustees of the Naples Children & Education Foundation. Their vision was to create an exquisite event that would raise funds for area charities that assist underprivileged and at-risk children. Since the first festival in 2001, \$69.5 million has been raised toward making a profound and sustainable difference for children in need.

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 2009 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.