



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PICNIC WITH THE WINEMAKERS & BARREL AUCTION AT AUCTION OF WASHINGTON WINES

Picnic Celebrates Washington's Wine Industry Success

SEATTLE (July 29, 2008) – Guests are invited to gather on the grounds of Chateau Ste. Michelle in Woodinville, WA, Thursday, August 14 from 4:30 p.m. to dusk, for Picnic with the Winemakers & Barrel Auction which will usher in the three-day Auction of Washington Wines. The Picnic and Barrel Auction is BYOB (bring your own blanket) and will showcase live entertainment, gourmet foods, a laid-back atmosphere and amazing Washington wines as well as the opportunity to meet the most notable winemakers in Washington.

Picnickers flock to this annual event to bid on limited production wines from some of Washington state's top winemakers, along with exclusive wine items and the opportunity to compete in games of chance like the Wheel of Wine and Ring Toss. This year's Barrel Action features limited production wines from Abeja, à Maurice, Buty Winery, Columbia Winery, Gramercy Cellars, J. Bookwalter, Mark Ryan Winery, Matthews Estate, Sleight of Hand Cellars, Spring Valley Vineyard, Va Piano Vineyards and Waters Winery.

A multi-course gourmet picnic will be presented by guest chefs from The Capital Grille, The Oceanaire Seafood Room and Trellis at the Heathman Hotel. Live vintage cocktail music is provided by Johnny Astro and guest emcee is Jim Dever of King5 "Evening Magazine." Tickets are \$125 per person and weekend packages are also available.

The Auction of Washington Wines has become the industry's premier fundraiser and proudly supports uncompensated care at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center and the Washington Wine Education Foundation. The three-day destination event will celebrate the coming of age of the Washington wine industry, as it has become a world-class producer of wine in the United States. To date, the Auction of Washington Wines has raised more than \$19 million. For more information and tickets to Picnic and other Auction of Washington Wine events, please call 206.326-5750 or click on www.auctionofwashingtonwines.org.

About the Auction of Washington Wines

The Auction of Washington Wines, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, is the philanthropic organization of the Washington State wine industry and one of the top charity wine auctions in the nation. More than \$19 million has been raised since the auction was founded in 1988. The 2008 Auction is co-chaired by Todd Leiweke, CEO, Seattle Seahawks/Seattle Sounders FC and Greg Lill, CEO/co-owner, DeLille Cellars. . Major sponsors include: Chateau Ste. Michelle, John L. Scott Foundation, Classical KING FM, KING5, Puget Sound Lexus Dealers, Seattle Magazine, Seattle Sounders FC, Wine Spectator, Viking, Vine Vertical, Wells Fargo Private Bank, Wine Spectator and Wizards of the Coast, a Hasbro Subsidiary.

About Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center

Consistently ranked as one of the best children's hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report, Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center serves as the pediatric referral center for Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. Children's has been delivering superior patient care for 100 years, including advancing new discoveries and treatments in pediatric research, and serving as a primary teaching, clinical and research site for the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. In 2008, the hospital is expected to provide over \$65 million in uncompensated care to families who otherwise cannot pay their medical costs.

About the Washington Education Foundation

The Washington Wine Education Foundation aims to strengthen the quality and reputation of the Washington Wine industry by providing support toward a world-class enology and viticulture research, education and training program specific to Washington State. A portion of funds raised during the Auction of Washington Wines goes toward scientific research in vineyards and fermentation, Washington-based educational programs that promote undergraduate and graduate degrees, and to farm worker and industry employee programs that promote health and safety. This educational group began collaborating in 2001 to create quality educational programs in winemaking and grape growing.

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