



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Auction of Washington Wines raises \$1.5 million

More than 3,500 attendees donate generously to Seattle Children's Hospital

SEATTLE (August 18, 2009) – The 22nd annual Auction of Washington Wines, held August 13-15 in Woodinville, WA, at the Chateau Ste. Michelle, raised \$1.5 million for uncompensated care at Seattle Children's Hospital and the Washington Wine Education Foundation.

"This is a very respectable amount in the face of a difficult economy. It's also a real statement of the loyalty from our constituents – donors and patrons – to support Seattle Children's Hospital in such a generous way," said Auction of Washington Wines Executive Director Carol Munro.

The Auction of Washington Wines broke many all-time records this year, including more Friday night winemaker dinners than ever before. About 530 wine lovers attended 15 dinners around the greater Seattle area. This year the Auction also featured a new event called Revelry on Red Mountain, at Col Solare winery near Benton City. The evening was a huge success with 130 attendees and 17 wineries. And the Covey Run 5K and 10K Run/Walk raised \$115,000 – more than \$15,000 over last year.

Greg Lill, CEO/co-owner of DeLille Cellars, and Auction co-chairman for the last two years commented, "I am continually impressed by the Washington wine industry's commitment to give back to the community. Aside from making some of the world's best wines, our growers and vintners reach deep each and every year to give what they can for Seattle Children's Hospital and the Washington Wine Education Foundation. This year was no exception."

Some of the top auction items included:

- Raise your Paddle for Seattle Children's Hospital – more than \$400,000
- Picnic Barrel Auction proceeds - \$44,000
- Super Bowl XLIV Package for two - auctioned two times for a total of \$36,000
- Travel with the Seahawks for two - auctioned three times for a total of \$26,500
- 2009 Commemorative Magnum of one-of-a-kind DeLille Cellars blend – 70 sold for a total of \$21,000
- A Via Tribunali pizza party with Col Solare and Betz Family Winery - \$19,000
- 13 3-liter bottles of Cayuse Vineyards wine plus 2 spots on the mailing list - \$17,000
- Six Betz Family 5-liters plus a Metropolitan Grill dinner for 12 - \$13,000
- Private Tour of Leonetti Cellar plus dinner for 6 and a 9-liter of Leonetti Cellar Reserve - \$9,000
- Sommelier Instant Gratification including a mystery case - auctioned four times for a total of \$8,000
- One-of-a-kind Piano Case of DeLille Cellars - \$4,500

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Ryan Pennington
(206) 326-5752 (Direct)
rpennington@washingtonwine.org

Gary Werner
(206) 326-5766 (Direct)
gwerner@washingtonwine.org

About the Auction of Washington Wines

Since its inception in 1988, the Auction of Washington Wines has raised more than \$23 million, with a majority benefitting uncompensated care at Seattle Children's Hospital. This distinguished event gives wine lovers the chance to help the Washington wine industry bridge a critical funding gap for children across the Northwest. The 2009 Auction co-chairs are Tod Leiweke, CEO, Seattle Seahawks/Seattle Sounders FC and Greg Lill, CEO/co-owner, DeLille Cellars. Special thanks go to our major sponsors: Chateau Ste. Michelle, John L. Scott Foundation, 98.1 Classical KING-FM, King5 TV, Lease Crutcher Lewis, Seattle Magazine, Seattle Sounders FC, Viking Range/Gateway Appliance Distributing, Vine Vertical, and Wine Spectator.

For additional information, please contact Carol Munro, Director of the Auction of Washington Wines, at (206) 326-5747 or cmunro@washingtonwine.org. Also visit www.auctionofwashingtonwines.org.

About Seattle Children's Hospital

Seattle Children's delivers superior patient care, advances new discoveries and treatments through pediatric research, and serves as the pediatric and adolescent academic medical referral center for the largest landmass of any children's hospital in the country (Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho). Consistently ranked as one of the best children's hospitals in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*, Seattle Children's is comprised of Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle Children's Research Institute and Seattle Children's Hospital Foundation. Children's is internationally recognized for advancing discoveries in cancer, genetics, immunology, pathology, infectious disease, injury prevention and bioethics. Children's also serves as the primary clinical, research and teaching site for the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. For more information visit <http://www.seattlechildrens.org>.

About the Washington Wine 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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