



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Auction of Washington Wines only a Few Weeks Away**

*More events this year than ever before, and tickets are selling fast*

**SEATTLE** (July 20, 2009) - Summer is in full swing across the Pacific Northwest, and the region's original, largest and most prestigious charity auction showcasing the stars of Washington wine is just around the corner. The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Auction of Washington Wines is being held during a challenging year for many people, but sales are exceeding expectations.

Despite less than favorable economic conditions, the Auction of Washington Wines is still drawing strong sponsorship support and robust ticket sales for the many exciting events over the weekend of August 13-15. In fact, winemakers and chefs have stepped up in greater numbers this year to host more Friday winemaker dinners throughout the Puget Sound area than ever before.

"It just goes to show that, even in tough economic times, people are still willing to give to great charitable causes, and Children's Hospital deserves all the support we can give them," says Auction Executive Director Carol Munro.

Since its inception in 1988, the Auction of Washington Wines has raised more than \$21 million, with a majority benefitting uncompensated care at Seattle Children's Hospital. This distinguished event gives wine lovers the chance to bridge a critical funding gap for children across the Northwest.

The Auction is also excited this year to host national travel expert and syndicated radio personality Peter Greenberg, who will be broadcasting his weekly radio show *Peter Greenberg Worldwide* from the Chateau Ste. Michelle grounds during the Barrel Auction and Picnic with the Winemakers on Thursday, August 13.

The culminating event on Saturday evening is the elegant Gala Auction, featuring talented regional chefs preparing a multi-course meal accompanied by outstanding Washington wines. Highlighted auction items include destination vacations, one-of-a-kind wine lots, exquisite dinner parties with some of Washington's most esteemed winemakers, and much, much more.

For additional information, please contact Carol Munro, Director of the Auction of Washington Wines, at (206) 326-5747 or [cmunro@washingtonwine.org](mailto:cmunro@washingtonwine.org); or Jeff Ashley, Assistant Director of the Auction of Washington Wines at (206) 326-5454 or [jashley@washingtonwine.org](mailto:jashley@washingtonwine.org). Tickets to all the events are still available, and more information can be found at [www.auctionofwashingtonwines.org](http://www.auctionofwashingtonwines.org).

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