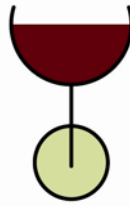


**classicwines** auction



*Wine working wonders.*

## News Release

Contact: Angie Dobrowski  
503.295.4493  
[angie@sd-pr.com](mailto:angie@sd-pr.com)

### **Classic Wines Auction sets record, raises \$1.5 million for Portland charities**

PORTLAND, Ore. (March 28, 2005) – Nearly 1,000 wine collectors and connoisseurs, together with Portland's top civic leaders, raised a record \$1.5 million for local charities at the 2005 Classic Wines Auction, a significant increase over the \$1.3 million raised last year.

The three-day festivities began Thursday, March 3 with 12 different Winemaker Dinners at area restaurants. The Ambassadors Dinner on March 4 at the University Club honored the Auction's 2005 Wine Ambassadors and featured guest chef Jérôme Geulin of Le Belvédère in Etretat, France. On March 5, guests bedecked in formal attire gathered for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Classic Wines Auction at the Oregon Convention Center. Successful bidders purchased a total of 235 lots, including 56 oral auction packages. Twenty-four lots brought in \$10,000 or more.

Originally founded as a small fundraiser for Portland's Metropolitan Family Service, the Classic Wines Auction has evolved into one of the top ten charity wine auctions in the United States, prompting organizers to form a separate nonprofit entity in July 2004. This shift enabled the event to attract new supporters, expand its catalog, increase its fundraising and benefit a greater number of local charities.

Proceeds from this year's Auction support Metropolitan Family Service, which helps to strengthen families and individuals while enhancing their participation in community life; Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington, which offers a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children receiving medical care in local hospitals; New Avenues for Youth, which helps homeless youth overcome tragic childhoods, exit the streets, and become productive members of our community; and SMART<sup>®</sup> (Start Making A Reader Today), which matches volunteers with children in low-income schools who need one-on-one support to improve their reading skills and life prospects.

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“We are absolutely thrilled with the results of the 2005 Classic Wines Auction,” said Sheryl Manning, co-chair of the Auction and president of the Classic Wines Auction, Inc. Board of Directors. “Creating a new nonprofit organization gave us the opportunity to make an even bigger impact on more local charities and the lives of the children and families they serve. New people, new ideas, new energy...the results speak for themselves.”

Auction guests sipped exclusive wines from 2005 Wine Ambassadors Doug Tunnell of Oregon’s Brick House Vineyards, Martin Clubb of Washington’s L’Ecole N° 41, Rich Frank of California’s Frank Family Vineyards, and Riccardo Cotarella of Italy’s Falesco while enjoying a five-course gourmet meal prepared by some of the Northwest’s hottest chefs: Morgan Brownlow of clarklewis, Michael Clancy of Giorgio’s Restaurant, Brad Root of Roots Restaurant, Marco Shaw of Fife, and Sue McCown of Earth and Ocean at Seattle’s W Hotel. Pascal Sauton of Portland’s highly acclaimed Carafe Bistro served as the Auction’s food and beverage chairman.

Renowned charity and wine auctioneer David Reynolds started the evening’s oral bidding, which featured special lots from each Wine Ambassador as well as rare, sought-after wine collections, trips, private parties and more. Some of the highest grossing wine lots included wines from Rombauer Vineyards, Silver Oak Cellars, Grace Family Vineyards, Screaming Eagle, Pétrus and Mouton Rothschild.

In one of the gala’s most poignant moments, each of the four charities told their story through the eyes of the children they serve. Garnering \$166,000 in donations which go directly to the charities’ programs, it was the evening’s highest grossing lot.

Two industry leaders were honored during this year’s auction. Ed Maletis, chairman of Portland-based Columbia Distributing and a two-time past chair of the event, received the 2005 VINI Award, which honors individuals who help promote the enjoyment of wine through their enthusiasm and support of viticulture. Ken Wright, owner/winemaker of Ken Wright Cellars in Carlton, Ore., received the 2005 ORVI Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated significant achievements in building Oregon’s wine industry and establishing its reputation worldwide.

#### About the Classic Wines Auction, Inc.

Based in Portland, Oregon, the Classic Wines Auction, Inc., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to producing the Classic Wines Auction and related events which raise money for local charities benefiting children and families. Originally conceived as a social service agency fundraiser, the auction has evolved into one of the top ten charity wine auctions in the United States, according to *Wine Spectator* magazine. The Classic Wines Auction raised \$1.5 million for four Portland-area charities in 2005 and has raised more than \$11.5 million since inception. For more information, please contact (503) 972-0194 or [info@classicwinesauction.com](mailto:info@classicwinesauction.com).

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