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**20th ANNUAL HIGH MUSEUM ATLANTA WINE AUCTION
RAISES \$2 MILLION**

More than \$1.437 Million in Auction Sales; Highest Single Auction Bid \$40,000

ATLANTA, April 12, 2012 — In its 20th year, the 2012 High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction reached a Live Auction total of more than \$1.257 million and a Silent Auction total of \$179,995 under the tents on Saturday, March 31. Coupled with a Paddle Raise during the Live Auction, benefactor and event ticket sales, the events raised \$2 million to support the Museum's exhibition and educational programming. The dates for the 21st annual High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction are March 20–23, 2013.

The 2012 Wine Auction celebrated with "A Salute to the Glorious Grape." Organized by volunteer co-chairs Merry McCleary and Carmen Pope, the weekend events were held in Atlantic Station under festive big-top tents.

There were 70 live auction lots and 198 silent auction lots that offered exclusive opportunities to taste, tour and visit with more than 100 vintners from the world's premier wine regions as well as the chance to purchase cult wines, rare vintages and large-format bottles.

The High Museum Wine Auction's Special Guests of Honor for 2012 were Jim Clendenen from Au Bon Climat, Robert Bower from Taylor Fladgate and Miguel Torres Jr. from Miguel Torres Chile. David Fischer from Ramey Wine Cellars was the Special Friend-in-Wine. The Special Guest Chefs were Ben and Karen Barker from Magnolia Grill in Durham, N.C.; Gerry Klaskala from Aria; Anne Quatrano from Bacchanalia, Floataway Café, Star Provisions, Quinones and Abattoir; and Frank Stitt from Highlands Bar and Grill, Bottega, Café Bottega and Chez Fonfon in Birmingham, Ala.

The 7th annual Paddle Raise was held in support of youth education at the High, including programs such as Art Access, the *I See Literacy* and *I See History* tours, the Summer Teacher Institute and the Atlanta Public Schools After-School Project. This year's Paddle Raise, held in memory of longtime auction supporter Taylor Stuckey, allowed bidders to contribute between \$500 and \$10,000 each to the fund, with the total reaching over \$200,000.

Two auction lots brought in the highest bids of the day at \$40,000 each. The first featured a two-night stay for four couples at Blackberry Farm, *Travel + Leisure's* No. 1 Resort in North America, including special wine dinners hosted by Ann Colgin and Joe Wender of Colgin Cellars with Mary Celeste and Sam Beall of Blackberry Farm. The second lot, offered by Special Guest of Honor Robert Bower, was a Taylor Fladgate experience in Portugal for two including two nights in Portugal's leading luxury hotel with roundtrip, international business elite airfare from Delta Air Lines plus a bottle of the world's oldest and rarest Port—SCION. A week-long trip to Chile from Special Guest of Honor Miguel Torres, Jr. brought a winning bid of \$35,000.

High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction

Founded in 1993, the High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction is the largest fundraising event for the High Museum of Art, the leading art museum in the southeastern U.S. The Wine Auction is the top charity fundraising event in Atlanta, the fifth largest charity wine auction in the U.S. according to *Wine Spectator* and the No. 1 charity wine auction benefiting the arts. The funds generated by the auction, which amount to more than \$21 million over the last 20 years, are a significant contribution to the Museum's exhibitions and educational programming. Proceeds help to make possible special exhibitions and partnerships such as the multi-year, multi-exhibition partnership between the High and The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and also provide funds for dynamic youth education programs that draw thousands of schoolchildren to the High each year.

High Museum of Art

Founded in 1905 as the Atlanta Art Association, the High Museum of Art is the leading art museum in the southeastern U.S. With more than 12,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High Museum of Art has an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American and decorative art; significant holdings of European paintings; a growing collection of African American art; and burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, photography and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists and is distinguished as the only major museum in North America to have a curatorial department specifically devoted to the field of folk and self-taught art. The High's media arts department produces acclaimed annual film series and festivals of foreign, independent and classic cinema. In November 2005, the High opened three new buildings by architect Renzo Piano that more than doubled the Museum's size, creating a vibrant "village for the arts" at the Woodruff Arts Center in midtown Atlanta. For more information about the High, please visit www.High.org.

The Woodruff Arts Center

The Woodruff Arts Center is ranked among the top four arts centers in the nation. The Woodruff is unique in that it combines four visual and performing arts divisions on one campus as one not-for-profit organization. Opened in 1968, the Woodruff Arts Center is home to the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art and Young Audiences. To learn more about the Woodruff Arts Center, please visit www.woodruffcenter.org.

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