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**High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction
Ranked Number Four Nationally By Wine Spectator**

Top 10 U.S. Charity Wine Auctions Announced in March 31 Issue

ATLANTA, March 25, 2009 – The High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction has been named fourth in a national ranking of the Top 10 charity wine auctions in the United States by *Wine Spectator Magazine* in its March 31, 2009, issue, moving up one spot from last year's ranking. Each year, *Wine Spectator* gathers information on charity auctions throughout the country and ranks its Top 10. In 2008 the results of 40 charity wine auctions were tracked to compile the rankings.

The 2008 High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction set records as the most successful live auction in its 16-year history, bringing in a net profit of more than \$2.1 million, marking only the second time in its history to raise more than \$2 million. Last year also marked the Wine Auction's third time in the Atlantic Station neighborhood, the heart of Atlanta's cosmopolitan west side and the city's newest location for community events.

When speaking on the 2008 ranking, Senior Development Manager Woodie Wisebram noted that: "Being the High's largest fundraising event and also the largest charity wine auction in the country that specifically benefits the arts, we are excited about moving up in *Wine Spectator* ranking scale to number four in their Top 10. We are looking forward to another successful year in 2009."

2009 High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction

The High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction kicks off its 17th year in 2009, celebrating its anniversary with the theme "The Genius Inside: Wine + Food + Art." Beginning Wednesday, March 25, and continuing through Saturday, March 28, 2009, the auction will again raise its trademark big-top tents in Atlantic Station.

The centerpiece of the auction weekend is the Live Auction, where more than 100 auction lots will be sold this year, including rare and collectible wines, exclusive wine-related trips and dining events and works of art. This year's auction catalogue can be previewed online at www.atlanta-wineauction.org, which also includes information on sealed and telephone bidding.

The 2009 Wine Auction is organized by co-chairs Crystal Cox and Karen Hughes. Auction week, March 25–28, begins with Thomas Arvid's Artist Dinner on Wednesday, March 25, and is followed by 15 Winemaker Dinners on Thursday, March 26. Events on Friday, March 27, include a fantastic dinner led by gastronomic genius Chef Linton Hopkins and the Gala Silent Auction, held under festive big-top tents in Atlantic Station, featuring a Champagne de Venoge Reception. Saturday, March 28, features the Vintners' Reception and Live Auction and concludes with The Big Finish, a wine-weekend finale for the auction's next generation co-sponsored by the Museum's volunteer organization Art Partners. Teaming

up to wield the gavel for Saturday's Live Auction are esteemed wine auctioneers Michael Davis and Leah Hammer of Hart Davis Hart Wine Co., Chicago. *For more information about specific events, please visit www.atlanta-wineauction.org.*

The 2009 High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction is made possible through the generous support of the exclusive Presenting Sponsor, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., and Premier Corporate Sponsors including *Atlanta Homes and Lifestyles* magazine, Geographics and Wachovia Wealth Management. Atlantic Station is the Site Sponsor. Delta Air Lines is the official airline sponsor. Select Corporate Sponsors include Corporate Environments; Wilmington Trust; Callaway Gardens; Sherlock's Wine Merchant; Four Seasons Hotel, Atlanta; The Atlantic; A Legendary Event; and Tony Brewer & Company.

High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction

Founded in 1993, the High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction is the largest fundraising event for the High and ranks as the top charity wine auction in the country benefiting the arts, drawing prominent winemakers from the U.S. and around the world. The funds generated by the Wine Auction, which amount to more than \$14 million over the last 15 years and \$2.1 million in 2008 alone, are a significant contribution to the Museum's acquisitions, exhibitions and educational programming. *For more information about the Wine Auction, please visit www.atlanta-wineauction.org.*

High Museum of Art

The High Museum of Art, founded in 1905 as the Atlanta Art Association, is the leading art museum in the southeastern United States. With more than 11,000 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 the largest arts center in the Southeast as well as one of the four largest in the nation. The Woodruff is unique in that it combines five visual and performing arts divisions on one campus as one not-for-profit organization. Founded in 1968, the Woodruff Arts Center is home to the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art, Young Audiences and the 14th Street Playhouse.

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