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Sip Spanish Sensations !

The 18th Annual PONCHO International Wine Auction, Escalates Taste Buds to a Fever Pitch of Passion with Wines from Spain.

¡Viva el Arte! – A Salute to Spain

Seattle, WA – July 10, 2008-- Word to the palates and wine cellars , PONCHO has just announced plans for the preeminent wine event of the year, the 18th annual International Wine Auction, *¡Viva el Arte! – A Salute to Spain*, benefiting local arts organizations, will be held on October 18, 2008 at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel.

Building on the tremendous success and notoriety of previous years, this event will offer patrons thirsting for new opportunities a chance to not only bid on fabulous rare and unique auction lots from around the world, but a chance explore Spanish culture through the most acclaimed wineries, notable chefs and exceptional cuisine of Spain.

The auction attracts a mix of avid wine collectors and new enthusiasts who come together to celebrate the art of wine. This year's festivities are Co-Chaired by a “perfecta triple union” of wine and food aficionados, Renée Behnke of Sur la Table, Lauri Darneille, wine collector, and Dan McCarthy, of McCarthy & Schiering Wine Merchants.

Exciting highlights include:

- An exclusive wine tasting Thursday, October 16 with honored guest Georg Riedel
- Winemakers and world-class chefs from Spain will deliver a triumphant menu at the Vintner's Dinner Friday, October 17
- The largest “big bottle” auction ¡Viva el Arte! - A Salute to Spain will be held on Saturday, October 18, at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel.

About PONCHO

PONCHO is dedicated to enriching the quality of life in the Northwest through increasing resources and community support for the arts. Since it was founded in 1963, PONCHO has raised more than \$34 million to support over 200 local arts organizations. Each year, PONCHO hosts three auctions to raise funds for these worthy causes. For more information about PONCHO and its fundraising efforts, visit:

www.poncho.org.