Herkimer Area Resource Center

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The Community Resource Enriching Lives of People with Disabilities and Their Families . . .Since 1969

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NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL WINE AUCTION WILL DAZZLE CONNOISSEURS IN 2008

For 12 years, the New York International Wine Auction (NYIWA) has featured outstanding wines and luxurious lifestyle items. NYIWA's lucky 13th event, supported by premier sponsor MVP Health Care, is planned to be even more spectacular as it is moved to a Saturday evening, November 15, at the Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown, NY.

The charitable event, which features a silent auction and tasting, a five-course gourmet dinner, and live auction, will also feature afternoon wine education seminars this year. Proceeds benefit the Herkimer Area Resource Center, which serves individuals with developmental and other disabilities in Central New York.

Last year, the event netted nearly $85,000 to support people with disabilities. The 2008 solicitation team and committees have travelled the country to bring back both rare and distinctive wine, trips, artwork, and other fine lifestyle items. Sommelier Johannes Neckermann and the Otesaga Resort Hotel's Executive Chef David McLean Lockwood have expertly paired a sumptuous five-course gourmet dinner with wonderful wines.

In 2008, NYIWA will feature a six-liter bottle of Grace Family Vineyards 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon. A single bottle of Grace Family wines has fetched as much as $100,000 at auction. Grace Family Cab sells-out each year to select customers—with 4,000 persons on a waiting list. Simply put, their wine is outstanding and coveted by many. What a marvelous and competitive addition this unique bottle of wine will be to the 2008 auction.

NYIWA guests include oenophiles and wine enthusiasts from throughout New York, California, Pennsylvania, Washington, and New Jersey, among others. Tickets for the seminars, silent auction and tasting, five-course dinner and live auction are $175 per person. Tasting and Silent Auction only tickets can be purchased for $50 per person. The tasting event begins at 5 p.m., and dinner begins at 7:30 p.m. A special NYIWA room rate is available at the Otesaga Hotel until September 30.

This year's outstanding wine and dinner menu includes, first course: 2006 Hartwell Estate Sauvignon Blanc Estate Vineyard Carneros paired with a Pistachio Crusted Chèvre and Spiced Prawns and Shellfish Emulsion. Second course: 2006 Arrowood Viognier Saralee Vineyard Russian River Valley Sonoma paired with Diver Scallops and Prosciutto, and Pistou of Escargot. Third course: a 2006 Papapietro Perry Pinot Noir Leras Family Vineyards Russian River Valley Sonoma paired with Supremes of Chicken "Coq au Vin" with Forest Mushrooms and Pearl Onions. Fourth

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course: 2004 Souverain Cabernet Sauvignon Winemaker's Reserve Alexander Valley Sonoma County paired with Tenderloin of Beef with Sauce Chateaubriand, Pommes Duchesse, and Glazed Root Vegetables. Fifth course: 2006 Sheldrake Point Vineyard Late Harvest Riesling Bunch Select Riesling, Cayuga Lake, Finger Lakes paired with an Almond Tuile with Raspberry Sorbet, Chocolate Truffles, and Berries.

In 1996, NYIWA was created to offer a unique event to raise funds on behalf of programs for people with disabilities. Celebrating its 13th year, the New York International Wine Auction has become a premiere northeast auction, attracting donations from some of the best and most important wineries in the world. Renowned wine expert and auctioneer, David Reynolds of Reynolds & Buckley of San Francisco, CA, will travel to Cooperstown to make the event exciting and fresh.

Auction Director Tony Vennera says auction-goers looking for hard-to-find, boutique-type wines will be exuberant about this year's donations. "We have outstanding wines this year, many of which are either unavailable for public sale or very difficult to purchase without being on a vineyard's mailing list." Vennera adds both the silent and live auctions will not only offer unusual international and domestic wines, but also travel and dining opportunities, jewelry, collectible glassware, and other lifestyle items.

A sample of the top auction lots this year include: 750 ml. 1982 Chateau Margaux, six-liter bottle of Grace Family 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon; 12, 750 ml. 2005 Bobby's Blend Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley; 6-liter Grace Family Blank Vineyards 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon; two 750 ml. 1990 Lafite Rothschild; 9-liter bottle, Arrowood 2002 Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve Special; six-liter 2005 Caymus Special Selection Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon; and a three-liter 2002 Opus One with wooden box. Travel opportunities include a California Dream Getaway; a seven-night stay at Casa de Campo – La Romana, in the Dominican Republic which features a private home with two maids, pool and jacuzzi; and a week-long stay in Cape Cod at a private home within walking distance to a private beach.

NYIWA tickets are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. For tickets, information, the special room rate, or an up-to-date listing on what items will be available for auction, call Auction Director Tony Vennera at (315) 866-2920 or visit the NYIWA web site at nyiwa.com.

The Herkimer Area Resource Center is a partnership of persons who have developmental or other disabilities and their families, staff, volunteers and members. HARC employs nearly 400 full and part-time staff. They provide meaningful work and life goals, and give care to over 600 participants in Day Programs, Health Services, Residential (24-hour and supported homes), Recreational and Respite Services, Senior Center, Family Support, Valley Commons, Employment Services, Herkimer Industries, and Transportation.

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