



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS

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**Museum of Photographic Arts Presents
VINTAGE 2009 Grand Tasting and Auction
Saturday, May 30, 2009**

San Diego, CA -- The Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA) presents its signature Vintage Grand Tasting Wine Auction on Saturday, May 30, 2009. The event opens at 6:00 p.m. at the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park. The festivities will begin with tastings of featured wines paired with small dishes, as well as a silent auction. The live auction will follow at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$80.00 for MoPA members, \$95.00 for non-members, and \$150.00 for VIP entry.

Celebrating its eleventh year, this highly successful annual event for MoPA raises funds to support the museum's world-class exhibitions, film series and education programs.

This year's event offers hand selected wines from Napa and Sonoma Valley wineries. A new offering for this year's event is the participation of some of the hottest San Diego restaurants, offering small dishes and appetizers specially crafted to compliment the wines.

Participating wineries include:

- Viader
- Andrew Geoffrey Vineyards
- Vision Cellars
- Whitehall Lane Winery
- Charter Oak Winery
- Cliff Lede Vineyards

Featured restaurants include:

- WhisknLadle
- Currant American Brasserie
- George's California Modern
- JRDN Restaurant
- Suite & Tender
- Giuseppe Fine Catering
- Alchemy
- Heaven Sent Desserts

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Balboa Park :: 1649 El Prado :: San Diego CA 92101 :: 619.238.7559 :: www.mopa.org

The evening promises guests a sensational experience of casual elegance and glamour, combining fine wine, art and cuisine in a way that only MoPA can deliver. The museum will be dressed in its finest cocktail attire, complete with a hot pink carpet where "paparazzi" will take photos of guests as they enter the event. Marylyn Monroe herself will be in attendance, providing an opportunity for attendees to snap memorable photos with the screen icon.

The evening offers silent and live auctions, where guest will have an opportunity to bid on rare wines, exquisite lifestyle packages, and intimate private dinners. Some auction items include: A private dinner for 8 at the luxurious estate home of Gail and Ralph Bryan in Rancho Santa Fe, catered by Giuseppe Catering; a case of select 100 point rated wines; an exclusive dinner for 12 with Top Chef Brian Malarkey of Oceanaire; an exclusive Santa Fe Photo Getaway package, which includes a 2 nights stay at a historic photography filled bed and breakfast and a private dinner at the home artist Jo Whaley; in addition to many other exquisite items and packages.

VINTAGE has become one of San Diego's premier benefit events, appealing to both wine aficionados and supporters of the arts. "MoPA's Vintage is not only an incredibly delicious wine and food tastings, it provides vital funding for our museum. It is the ultimate opportunity for wine and arts lovers throughout San Diego to celebrate and contribute to a great cause. We expect guests will be wowed by the quality of the food and wine and dazzled by great auction items," says Gail Bryan, VINTAGE 2009 Chair and MoPA Board President.

VINTAGE 2009 is generously sponsored by Hollis Brand Culture, Secret Napa Valley Wines, JRDN Restaurant/Tower 23, George's California Modern, Currant American Brasserie, The Sofia Hotel, Suite & Tender, Giuseppe Fine Catering, Heaven Sent Desserts, Viader, Charter Oak, Andrew Geoffrey Vineyards, Alchemy, Warp 9 Imaging, Syrah Spirit & Wine Parlor, and Vision Cellars.

Admission for the events:

Vintage 2009 Grand Tasting and Wine Auction on May 30, 2009;
6:00 p.m.-Wine Tasting and Silent Auction; 7:30 p.m.- Live Auction

- \$80 MOPA Members, \$95 Non-Members, \$150 VIP

Press Opportunities:

Event photos will be available for press reproduction in high resolution formats after the event. Please contact MoPA's Public Relations Department at 619-238-7559, ext. 203 or via email (pr@mopa.org) with any press-related needs.

MoPA Information

Mission

The mission of the Museum of Photographic Arts is to inspire, educate and engage the broadest possible audience through the presentation, collection, and preservation of photography, film and video.

The Museum of Photographic Arts (MoPA) is one of the few museums in the country devoted to photography, film and video. Since its founding in 1983, MoPA has been dedicated to collecting,

preserving and exhibiting the entire spectrum of the photographic medium. The museum's endeavors consistently address cultural, historical and social issues through its exhibitions and public programs.

Visit www.mopa.org for information about exhibitions, programs and special events.

- **Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Mondays.
- **Gallery admission:** \$6 adults; \$4 students, seniors and military; FREE to members and children under 12. Admission is free to the public on the second Tuesday of the month.
- **Docent Tours** for student groups (elementary through college) are available free of charge with advance reservations. Tours for non-students are also available, with advance reservations, at a discounted admission rate. Call 619.238.7559 x 301 to reserve your tour.

The Museum of Photographic Arts is accredited by the **American Association of Museums** and is a member-supported, private, non-profit institution. Additional support for museum programs is provided in part by the **City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation, the Weingart-Price Fund, the San Diego Foundation, Patrons of the Prado, and the National Endowment for the Arts.**

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