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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grand Vin! Wine Country Weekend Appoints New Board

*Chris Upchurch, DeLille Cellars and Jim Holmes, Ciel du Cheval
Selected as Honorary Chairs of Grand Vin!*

SEATTLE, WASH. - (May 11, 2004) - Co-Chairs of Grand Vin! Washington Wine Country Weekend, Al DeAtley, director of Washington Wine Country, along with Karen Pratt and Mary Poor, board members of the Yakima Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, announced the appointment of a new Board of Directors. This year's event will honor Chris Upchurch, winemaker at DeLille Cellars in Woodinville and Jim Holmes, owner of Ciel du Cheval vineyard in the Red Mountain appellation for their contributions to the wine industry.

Culled from community leaders and winemakers on both sides of the Cascades, the 30 members of the board will serve as ambassadors to Grand Vin! Wine Country Weekend and lend their expertise to making the event the premier auction held in Washington's wine country. "We're very excited about the powerhouse of experience this board brings to enrich the planning and execution of the annual Grand Vin!," said DeAtley.

New board members representing the winemaking regions east of the Cascades include:

- Megan Clubb, Baker Boyer Bank
- John Colgan, formerly of La Salle Foundation
- Mike Dunham, Dunham Cellars
- Vicki Gordon, Gordon Bros. Farms
- Doug Gore, Stimson Lane Vineyards & Estates
- Dennis Green, Conover Insurance
- Rebecca Gunsellman, Robert Karl Cellars
- Wally Hall, Hall Chevrolet
- Mike Hogue, Hogue Ranches
- Charlie Hoppes, Fidelitas
- Andy Miller, Marcus Whitman Hotel
- Arvid Monson, Monson Ranches
- Darlene Picatti, Bank of the West
- Lisa Plath, of Yakima
- Scott Pontin, Pontin Del Roza
- Michele Rennie, Northstar Winery
- Dr. Steven Van Ausdler, Walla Walla Community College
- Duane Wollmuth, Three Rivers Winery

Representatives west of the Cascades are:

- Sam Baker, Oles, Morrison, Rinker & Baker LLP
- Glenn Coogan, Franciscan Estates
- Anne-Marie Hedges, Hedges Cellars
- Jack Jolley, Quellos Group LLC
- SaSa Kirkpatrick of Sammamish
- Brett Magnan, Willows Lodge
- Kathleen Shoup of Seattle

*Since its inception in July 2000, proceeds from **Grand Vin! Auctions & Dinner** have quadrupled. This year the event is poised to be the premier auction in wine country and is seeking a goal of \$515,000 and more than 500 attendees. The expanded event will provide numerous opportunities for visitors to experience wineries and the wine-producing region of our state. The auction is the largest fundraiser for the Yakima Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross and Washington Wine Country.*

Formed in 2003, Washington Wine Country is a non-profit association of Eastern Washington businesses promoting wine-related tourism, economic development and recognition of the world-class wine-growing region comprising the Yakima Valley, Columbia Valley, Walla Walla Valley and Red Mountain appellations.

<http://www.winecountrywashington.org/>

The Yakima Valley Chapter of The American Red Cross is dedicated to helping people in Yakima County prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters and emergencies. Last year, this chapter assisted more than 100 families affected by house fires in Yakima County, provided health and safety classes, performed more than 3,000 blood pressure screenings and served as an emergency communication link for the Armed Forces.

www.yakimavalley.redcross.org

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