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**Wine Country Celebration & Grand Gala,
June 23 & 24**
A Weekend Celebration of Wine Country Living

Seattle, Wash. – (March 23, 2006) – The 4th annual Wine Country Celebration and Grand Gala auction and benefit dinner is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 23rd and 24th at locations from Yakima to the Tri-Cities. This year's weekend event is full of activities ranging from a golf tournament and jazz concert to winemaker dinners and an exclusive gala dinner and auction.

Washington Wine Country is the non-profit consortium who came onto the scene four years ago with a mission to rejuvenate the economies of Eastern Washington by leveraging the state's flourishing wine industry. Their annual fundraiser serves to meet their mission of bringing people into Washington's vineyard region for a celebration of wine country and rural living. It is also the primary source of income for the consortium and their on-going grants and community projects.

The exciting weekend schedule of events is as follows:

Friday, June 23, 2006

- **Wine Country Golf Classic** at the beautiful Meadow Springs Country Club golf course in Kennewick with a shot-gun start around noon. Golfers are encouraged to gather their colleagues and challenge their competitors to a corporate challenge. Entry fee is \$150 per player and includes lunch, prizes and a post-tournament Rosé wine tasting.
- **The Seasons of Yakima Celebration Jazz Concert** takes place at the new Seasons Performance Hall in Yakima for a special concert featuring jazz great Mose Allison. The Wine Country Celebration is offering a select few the VIP, red carpet treatment where they will take part in an exclusive meet and greet with Mose and a special hors d'oeuvres and wine tasting prior to the concert. VIP admission is \$65 per person. The VIP reception begins at 6:30 with the concert kicking off at 8 pm.
- **Vintners Appellation Dinners** are taking place throughout the region on Friday evening. Wineries are joining forces to create the most memorable winemaker dinners ever. Hot tickets include the threesome of DeLille Cellars, Northstar and Sheridan Vineyards at Sheridan in Zillah; Basel Cellars, Dusted Valley Vintners and Willow Crest are joining forces in Prosser at Willow Crest's new tasting room; the winemaking talents

of Fidelitas and Longshadows converge at Cañon de Sol in Benton City and the Richland winery trio of Barnard Griffin, J. Bookwalter and Tagaris Wineries at Tagaris' new Taverna. The per person cost for each dinner is \$125.

Saturday, June 24, 2006

- **Grand Gala**, the auction and benefit dinner, once again features 200 guests in an exclusive evening at the heralded DeAtley Estate in Yakima. Auction goers will dine among the stars overlooking the scenic Yakima Valley while savoring "Northwest fresh" fare prepared by celebrated chef Vicky McCaffree of The Yarrow Bay Grill in Kirkland. Each enticing course will be paired with select bottlings of Washington wines.

For more information and to purchase tickets for this exciting fundraising event in support of Washington Wine Country, visit the event Web site at www.winecountrycelebration.com.

*The first of its kind, **Wine Country Celebration** has events at wineries within the wine growing appellations and gives visitors the opportunity to dine with winemakers in their wineries, golf, enjoy the sounds of classic jazz and taste the terroir of the various appellations of Washington wine. In the midst of this weekend lies the romantic and exclusive Grand Gala auction and benefit dinner at a heralded estate overlooking the Yakima Valley. www.winecountrycelebration.com*

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 and the newer appellations of the Columbia Gorge, Horse Heaven Hills and Wahluke Slope. www.winecountrywashington.org

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