



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To download accompanying images, go to our online pressroom at <http://pressroom.kravis.org/>

Issued: July 10, 2008
Contact: Brian Bixler
Phone: (561) 651-4257

Annual Palm Beach Wine Auction Planned

The Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts is pleased to announce that the annual Palm Beach Wine Auction will be held Feb. 17, 2009 at The Breakers in Palm Beach. The invitation-only event benefits the award-winning arts education programs for children at the Kravis Center.

The inaugural Palm Beach Wine Auction, sponsored by the Private Client Group at National City, attracted collectors, connoisseurs and the curious alike when it was held in March at The Breakers. The auction raised \$243,000 for the Kravis Center's education programs.

"We're off and running," said Ted Mandes, Chairman of the event. "The response to this year's inaugural event was overwhelming. It was a tremendous success and we are already looking forward to 2009."

"Wine auctions and festivals have been extremely successful as fundraisers in cities throughout the world," Mandes continued. "Naples has a wine auction. Napa has a wine auction. And we finally have one established in Palm Beach. It provides us the opportunity to involve the entire community and create awareness of the Kravis Center's education programs that are so vital to our youth today."

The elegant evening began with a champagne and wine reception serving Clicquot La Grand Dame Champagne. Following the reception, The Breakers served a sumptuous five-course wine dinner specially prepared by Executive Chef Jeff Simms and Executive Pastry Chef Elmar Wolf. The dinner was paired with wines hand-selected by The Breakers' Master Sommeliers Virginia Philip and Andrew McNamara as well as

Sommelier Jenny Benzie from Café Boulud and Sommelier Brian Chamis from Café Chardonnay. The wines were selected from highly rated wines from all over the world including France and coveted, hard-to-find boutique wines from California.

The evening concluded with a vintage 1977 Porto and Louis XIII grand cognac. The live wine auction produced some lively bidding during dinner as guests sought to obtain world-renowned Grands Crus, as well as highly rated wines from California and throughout the world. Auction Master Michael Troise, former auction director for NYWines Christie's, was in charge of the live auction.

Mark Stevens, Executive Vice President and Managing Director of the Private Client Group at National City, welcomed guests as they were seated for dinner.

“We are very pleased to support this inaugural event and to see the interest generated in the community,” Stevens said. “We commend Ted Mandes on his leadership and commitment to the Kravis Center in its mission of providing arts education programs to the children of our community.”

The Private Client Group at National City was the title sponsor for the Palm Beach Wine Auction with Tiffany & Co. providing significant support, including a pre-event party. Other sponsors included Mary and Lewis Schott, Laurie Silvers and Mitchell Rubenstein, Suzanne and Michael Ainslie, Geri and Casey Cowell, Erich Drettmann and Sydelle and Arthur Meyer.

Committee members included Jeffrey Bateman, Harold Corrigan, Ed Dudnyk, Barbara Golden, Alexander “Sandy” Myers, I. Jeffrey Pheterson, Lewis Schott, Laurie Silvers, Daniel J. “Rusty” Staub and Michael Troise.

The annual Palm Beach Wine Auction will begin at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 at The Breakers. For more information, call the Kravis Center at (561) 651-4320.

701 OKEECHOBEE BOULEVARD ♦ WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33401 ♦ (561) 833-8300 ♦ FAX (561) 833-3901

<http://www.kravis.org>

The Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts is a not-for-profit performing arts center whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County by presenting a diverse schedule of National and International Artists and companies of the highest quality; by offering comprehensive Arts Education programs; by providing a Palm Beach County home in which local and regional arts organizations can showcase their work; and by providing an economic catalyst and Community Leadership in the revitalization of West Palm Beach, supporting efforts to increase travel and tourism to Palm Beach County.