



VIP wine tours of South Africa, Tuscany and Provence to be auctioned at the 8th Annual Virtuoso Wine & Food Classic on May 20

*Benefit for the California Symphony to also showcase some
of the state's finest chefs and vintners*

WALNUT CREEK, CA – April 5, 2007 – Wine collectors and adventurers will not want to miss the **8th Annual Virtuoso Wine & Food Classic on Sunday, May 20, at the exclusive Round Hill Country Club in Alamo.** The afternoon event will include a live auction featuring international vacations and rare wine lots, as well as exceptional food and wine tastings presented by some of California's finest chefs and vintners.

One of the East Bay's premier social events, the Virtuoso Wine & Food Classic, sponsored this year by Chevron, benefits the California Symphony's acclaimed educational and artistic programs – including Music-in-the-Schools, which has reached over 50,000 elementary students throughout Contra Costa County since 1992.

Two renowned Bay Area personalities will again headline the Classic – KCBS radio host and culinary guru Narsai David as Master of Ceremonies and auctioneer extraordinaire David Reynolds. Entertainment will be provided by members of the California Symphony. This year's Virtuoso will also honor Mary Ann Carter, who has played a critical role in supporting the California Symphony since 1996 and in such other community efforts as Habitat for Humanity.

Beginning at 12:30 pm, the event will feature food by such restaurants as the Duck Club in Lafayette; Left Bank Brasserie and Nibblers Eatery & Wine Bar in Pleasant Hill; Lark Creek Walnut Creek, Massimo Ristorante and Prima Ristorante in Walnut Creek; and The Peasant and the Pear in Danville. Wine will be served by such vintners as Australia's Silkwood Wines; Marston Family Vineyards in St. Helena; Chalk Hill Estate Vineyards & Winery and Grove Street

Winery/Peter Paul Wines in Sonoma County; John Christopher Cellars, the La Rochelle Winery and Steven Kent Winery of the Livermore Valley; and Stuart Cellars in Temecula.

Among the exceptional items to be auctioned this year are a seven-night stay at an historic Tuscan estate in the Chianti Classico wine region of Panzano; a privately-escorted 11-day journey through South Africa's storied winelands and safari into Kruger National Park; a VIP wine tour through Provence in southern France; a week's vacation at a five-star resort on the Island of Anguilla; Chef's Table dinner for eight at Perbacco Ristorante in San Francisco (awarded three stars by the *Chronicle's* Michael Bauer) and such rare wines as a 3-liter bottle of Ballentine Vineyards Zinfandel (from a limited edition of only 24).

"We are ecstatic about the 8th Annual Virtuoso," says Mike Soza, chairman of the 2007 event. "This will be a year of firsts for the Classic, including a first-ever live performance by the California Symphony and our new venue at the prestigious Round Hill Country Club. Thanks to the generous participation of Narsai David and David Reynolds, Chevron and our other sponsors, auction donors, and the distinguished wineries and restaurants represented, this year's Classic promises to be our most successful fundraising event yet to support the California Symphony's critically-important outreach programs that enrich every aspect of our community."

Tickets to the 8th Annual Virtuoso Wine & Food Classic are \$125 each. Tables of ten are also available for \$2000 - \$5000. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.CaliforniaSymphony.org

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