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Press Release

Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Beach Wine Auction Toasts 11th Year with Evening of Exceptional Highlights

KRAVIS CENTER ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT FROM 2018 PALM BEACH WINE AUCTION *11th Annual Palm Beach Wine Auction features lively bidding paired with gourmet fare*

(West Palm Beach, Fla.) – The Palm Beach Wine Auction celebrated its 11th year supporting children’s arts education programs by welcoming approximately 230 guests to the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts’ Gimmelstob Ballroom in the Cohen Pavilion on February 1st. The event featured auction lots of remarkable wines and spirits from around the globe, exceptional luxury travel experiences and unique treasures.

The Gimmelstob Ballroom was swathed in grey velvet curtains lit with lavender and magenta accents, while the guests’ tables glittered with charcoal and silver tablecloths and centerpieces of floating candles and tealights. Guests were treated to five decadent courses, each course paired with a special vintage of fine wine.

Palm Beach Wine Auction Chairman Ted Mandes welcomed guests to the evening and thanked the event’s sponsors and longtime supporters. He then acknowledged the Kravis Center’s mission – and that of the Auction – to enrich local students’ lives through access to the performing arts.

“For more than 25 years, the Kravis Center has ensured that children in our community are given the chance to grow their imaginations and expand the cultural connections in their lives through the performing arts,” he said. “To date, the Kravis Center has welcomed more than 2.2 million schoolchildren served by 24 different arts education programs that take place at the Center and throughout our local schools.”

For the first time in its history, the Palm Beach Wine Auction catalog was offered online for pre-bidding. Guests and absentee bidders placed bids via mobile devices until 30 minutes before the live auction began.

The sold-out evening included a number of outstanding signature lots, including the evening’s last and highest single bid, a Louis XIII Le Jeroboam decanter with wooden case, pipette and four signature crystal glasses that sold for \$65,000.

Other exclusive lots sold during the evening included a full barrel of **Beckstoffer Vineyards’** 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon from the Las Piedras vineyard which sold for \$62,000. The barrel will be turned into 300 bottles of

bespoke, private label Cabernet for the lucky winner by winemakers from **Carter Cellars**. A “Dinner for the Ages” to be hosted by Tuny and David Page, featuring the opening of 12 rare wines from their personal collection including a 1919 Château d’Yquem, sold for \$45,000.

Another highlight of the evening was a surprise lot donated by Krug Champagne CEO Margareth Henriquez, who will host five couples for an exquisite Krug-paired dinner at the Two Michelin Star restaurant **The Modern** in New York City. The dinner sold for \$60,000. Other highlights from the catalog included three nights in a presidential suite at the **La Réserve Paris Hotel & Spa**, named in October by Condé Nast as the world’s best hotel, which sold for \$21,000. The trip includes daily breakfast and a sommelier-led wine dinner at the hotel’s Le Gabriel, a Two Michelin Star restaurant. A unique treasure featured at the 2018 event, an 18-karat “Everose” **Rolex Cosmograph Daytona** timepiece, donated by Mayors Jewelers and featuring a 40-millimeter case, Cerachrom bezel in black ceramic, and Oysterlock clasp, sold for \$28,000.

Throughout the bidding, guests sampled sublime fare from award-winning Chef Jeff Simms of The Breakers Palm Beach. The first course, “study of lobster”, included butter-poached lobster risotto, lobster bisque and lobster medallions, paired with **Beau Vigne’s 2015 Bacigalupi**. A second course of garam masala-spiced Berkshire pork belly with jalapeno beet raita, turmeric butternut puree and Pink Lady apple-celery salad was served alongside **Rudd’s Edge Hill 2013 Mixed Blacks**. A pouring of **Carter Cellars’ exceptional 2013 Beckstoffer To Kalon ‘The Grand Daddy’**, rated at 100 points, was served alongside the evening’s entrée of sliced Wagyu NY strip and braised beef shortribs with a cabernet demi-glace with Hon-Shimeji mushrooms. All three of the wines served with dinner were chosen as a tribute to the Napa Valley area vintners who have supported the Auction for many years and are managing disaster recovery from wildfires.

Michael Troise, retired Auction Director for NY Wines/Christie’s Fine and Rare Wine Department and the evening’s Auction Director, also served as Maître Fromager. He curated a cheese course including Brillat-Savarin and Bleu du Bocage from France and a six-year aged Roomano from the Netherlands, accompanied by **Dow’s 1977 Vintage Port** served from magnums.

Certified Sommelier Brian Chamis, of Café Chardonnay in Palm Beach Gardens and owner of The Vine Post in Juno Beach, returned to the helm for the event’s wine service and was joined by 15 sommeliers to serve the guests.

The Auction capped two months of related special events, including the White Truffle Dinner held at Trevini Ristorante in Palm Beach on December 4th and the Sponsors Vintners’ Dinner, held at Café Boulud in Palm Beach on January 31th. Guests of the Sponsors Vintners’ Dinner enjoyed a reception featuring Krug Grande Cuvée and a four-course dinner by Executive Chef Rick Mace. Several renowned vintners, including Italy’s Marchesi Piero Antinori and Slovenia’s Marjan Simčič, made special appearances at the event, congratulating the Palm Beach Wine Auction on its 11th year and introducing special pourings during the dinner. Antinori introduced his 2011 Tenuta Guado al Tasso Bolgheri Matarocchio, while Simčič shared his 2014 Pinot Noir Breg cru.

Since its inception, the Auction’s proceeds have helped fund Kravis Center arts education programs such as the *S*T*A*R* (Students and Teachers Arts Resource) *Series*, which brings thousands of students during their school day to the Kravis Center each year for diverse performances in theater, dance and music. This season, more than 60,000 children will benefit from the Kravis Center’s performing arts education programs.

Along with Ted Mandes as the event Chairman, Patrick Park returned as the event’s International Ambassador.

Palm Beach Wine Auction Sponsors are Broadrick Family Foundation; JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Aston Martin, Jaguar, Land Rover, McLaren Palm Beach; Jen and Ed Dudnyk; Susan Hurley Esson; Patricia and Edward Falkenberg; Madeline and Roderic Fink; First Republic Bank; Dr. Steven M. Gottlieb and Laurie Raber-Gottlieb; Imperial Wine Storage; Bill and Marilyn Lane Family Foundation; Jane M. Mitchell; Tuny and David Page; Laurie Silvers and Mitchell Rubenstein; Carolyn and Richard Sloane; Kathryn and Leo Vecellio; Jill and Bill Wachter; Tiffany & Co.; Media Support: Gulfstream Media Group.

Palm Beach Wine Auction Committee members are Amos Dare, Ed Dudnyk, Susan Hurley Esson, Roderic R. Fink, Barbara Evans Golden, Steven M. Gottlieb, Ashley D. Hoffman, John H. Kessler, Peter Lamelas, Shelley Menin, I. Jeffrey Pheterson, Michael Rendina, Martin Rivard, Jeffrey Sabeau, Laurie S. Silvers, Jill Sloane, Richard Sloane, Daniel J. "Rusty" Staub, Michael Troise, Cory Valentine, Kathryn C. Vecellio and Jill Wachter.

For more information about the Palm Beach Wine Auction, please visit palmbeachwineauction.org or call 561.651.4320. For more information on the Kravis Center's arts education programs, please visit kravis.org/education.

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