



## *2008 Off the Vine Wine Gala & Auction*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

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Off the Vine Wine Gala & Auction

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### Off the Vine Wine Gala & Auction Announces 2008 Dates

**November 16, 2007 – Tyler, Texas.** One of the most popular fundraisers in East Texas has announced its 2008 headliners and event dates. The Off the Vine Wine Gala & Auction has proven to be a hot commodity since its inception, perpetually selling out in advance, and raising record breaking amounts for charity. The event is set for Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the new Cascades Club House, one of Tyler's most affluent event venues.

A stellar lineup of honorary wine ambassadors from Oregon, Washington, and California will co-host the event and present the wines for the gala dinner. Honorary ambassadors represent high profile wine brands and the winemaker or owner will be in attendance to greet guests and talk about their wines. Ken Wright, winemaker/owner of Ken Wright Cellars will act as Oregon ambassador and Eric Dunham, winemaker of Dunham Cellars will represent Washington. Grgich Hills, the California ambassador, is represented by proprietor Violet Grgich.

Mark Kiffin, chef/owner of The Compound Restaurant in Santa Fe, New Mexico is the featured celebrity chef. Kiffin received the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Southwest in 2005, and has worked, written, and taught in the restaurant industry for more than 25 years. In 2004, he was featured at the Masters of Food & Wine event in Carmel, California, and in 2002 participated in the James Beard Foundation's Awards Reception, the culinary equivalent of the Oscars.

David Reynolds of Reynolds & Buckley Auctioneers will preside over the live auction festivities. Reynolds is nationally renowned for his showmanship, witty repartee, and ability to extract large sums of money for charity.

The event lineup for the 2008 event includes the following activities:

#### **Wine Dinners – Saturday, March 29 in Dallas, and Thursday, April 3 in Tyler**

New this year are a limited number of intimate wine dinners at fine dining establishments. Each dinner seats 10-20 persons depending upon the venue and is hosted by representatives from two wine brands wineries. A special menu will be created by the restaurant's executive chef to complement the featured wines.

### **Ambassadors' Reception – Saturday, April 5**

This exclusive opportunity for sponsors and key patrons is limited to 100 persons who will mingle with the honorary wine ambassadors and sample their reserve or premium wines prior to the gala and auction.

### **Off the Vine Wine Gala & Auction – Saturday, April 5**

The main event—complete with a grand wine tasting, multi-course menu prepared by the celebrity chef, ambassador wines, silent, super silent, and live auctions. The wines to be auctioned are donated by private collectors, winemakers, retailers, and distributors. The quality and importance are superb and many are often not available to the public. Unique and exciting travel packages are also offered.

The Off the Vine Wine Gala & Auction is attended by an affluent clientele of wine enthusiasts, business, civic, and social leaders. Proceeds from the event help two beneficiaries. The East Texas Crisis Center provides safety, shelter, counseling and education for victims of family violence and sexual assault and is committed to creating public awareness to reduce violence in the community. The original beneficiary, All Saints Episcopal School, is an independent college preparatory school focusing on excellence in academics, fine arts, and athletics.

Sponsorships are now available. For more information, contact Judy Anderson, Wine Gala Director, at 800-601-8123 or by email at [offthevine@comcast.net](mailto:offthevine@comcast.net). More information can be found on the web site at [www.offthevinetyler.com](http://www.offthevinetyler.com).

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