

M.A. Silva, USA Sponsors at Sonoma Harvest Wine Auction & Wine Country Weekend

County's Top Charitable Fundraiser Showcases Best in Food & Wine

Santa Rosa, CA – M.A. Silva, USA is proud to have sponsored the **Sonoma Harvest Wine Auction** which supports children's literacy, the local economy, Sonoma County non-profits, and improves the health and welfare of local communities. The Sonoma Wine Country Weekend featured a cast of hundreds of wineries, vintners, grape growers, chefs and volunteers who worked hard to represent the best of our incredibly diverse and bountiful region. The festivities culminated at Chateau St. Jean with the finale event, the auction. This year's theme was Sonoma Samba, a celebration of Brazil. The winery's main lawn was magically transformed so guests could enjoy the County's finest wine and chef creations while bidding on wine and lifestyle lots to raise needed dollars for local charities.

M.A. Silva President, Neil Foster believes it's important to give back to the community and cherishes these community partnerships. Supporting children's literacy is important to the M.A. Silva team; to help young children have a better chance of success in school. Proceeds raised through "Fund the Future" will support childhood literacy and key reading programs in a multi-year initiative that addresses the fact that *more than half of Sonoma County third-graders currently read below grade level*. One lot alone was the highest grossing lot ever in the 21-year history of the Sonoma Harvest Wine Auction, raising \$691,250 which will be divided between the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation's Summer Reading Academy, Schools of Hope (United Way of the Wine Country) and Pasitos Playgroups (Community Action Partnership).

The Sonoma Harvest Wine Auction is the region's largest and most fun charitable fundraising event, in addition to more than doubling the results of last year's Auction, gross proceeds are expected to be in excess of \$2.5 million for the entire Sonoma Wine Country Weekend once final tallies are calculated, another new record for the event as earnings increased by more than \$1 million over last year.

The weekend's festivities kicked-off with a Sonoma Starlight at Francis Ford Coppola Winery, Then the Taste of Sonoma at MacMurray Ranch, the only time members of the public are invited in to the private estate known as one of the most beautiful in all of California. The Sonoma Harvest Wine Auction at Chateau St. Jean was the weekend's grand finale. Numerous activities throughout Saturday and Sunday included an impressive array of intimate winemaker lunches & dinners at award-winning wineries, barbecues, wine seminars & demonstrations, sommelier-led tours, food and wine pairings.

About M.A. Silva USA:

Based in Sonoma County California, M.A. Silva USA is a leading manufacturer of premium natural corks, glass and packaging for North American markets. Its quality-assurance program ensures unmatched visual, mechanical and sensory characteristics of its products. The company operates on 100% solar power and is committed to sustainability and eco-friendly operations, for more information visit www.MASilva.com or call 877-689-7676.

About 2013 Sonoma Wine Country Weekend Sponsors and Beneficiaries

A partnership between Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance and Sonoma County Vintners, Sonoma Wine Country Weekend is California's premier wine, food and social event, taking place on Labor Day weekend each year. The events comprising Sonoma Wine Country Weekend have raised over \$11 million of support to local charities that benefit students, children, farm workers and people in need. For more information visit www.SonomaWineCountryWeekend.com

#####