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Successful Launch of Charity Wine Label to Fight Brain Cancer
Chardonnay Proceeds to benefit Chris Elliott Fund

Events feature host and 3-time Emmy winner Jean Smart at Sinclair Estate Vineyards

SEATTLE – For many of the VIPs present in Walla Walla on May 27 and 28 for the launch of Sinclair Estate Vineyard’s (SEV) new charity wine label with the Chris Elliott Fund (CEF), brain cancer has been a personal journey of loss and triumph. The 2-day event, hosted by Emmy-award winning actress Jean Smart, and Sinclair Estate Vineyards founders, Tim and Kathy Sinclair, along with CEF’s Inaugural Brains Matter Awareness, Auction & Celebration Luncheon in Bellevue on May 26, raised over \$35,000 and included events at the Walla Walla SEV winery and the beautiful Vine and Roses Bed and Breakfast.

Smart’s personal story of her sister, Georgia Smart, who died of glioblastoma (GBM) brain cancer in January 2011, and Sinclair’s story of his friend Sam Staatz, a 12 year GBM survivor, brought a greater sense of purpose and hope to the weekend’s goal to raise funds to fight a devastating disease that strikes 22,000 Americans every year.

“It was a wonderful event and demonstrated once again the charitable, caring nature of the Walla Walla community and how great wine is best shared with close friends and family,” said Sinclair, “Sinclair Estate Vineyards is proud to be associated with the Chris Elliott Fund and appreciated the opportunity to support the quest for a cure for brain cancer.”

CEF president and CEO, Dellann Elliott, whose husband Chris died of GBM in 2002, praised the efforts of SEV and Jean Smart. “We not only launched a new wine label with a 90 point Chardonnay, but this weekend marked the beginning of greater outreach to ensure that every brain cancer patient has access to advanced treatments and genetic testing,” Elliott said.

Attendees included Smart and her husband, television and movie producer Richard Gilliland, Microsoft executive and founder of SEV Tim Sinclair and wife Kathy Sinclair, owner of the acclaimed Vine and Roses Bed and Breakfast, real estate developer Ben Sinners and wife Sharon Sinners, and Paul and Gina McKay, owners of Seattle’s El Gaucho restaurant.

“It has been an honor to be in Seattle and Walla Walla helping to launch a



new wine label with Tim Sinclair on behalf of the Chris Elliott Fund,” said Smart, “We have found new friends here in our efforts to educate people about brain cancer and to raise funds for patient support and research.”

Proceeds from the SEV Chris Elliott Fund label will go towards education, awareness and integrated patient support services. CEF has invested over \$1 million in cutting-edge research and given over \$500,000 to patient programs that support education and advocacy as a key component to fighting the disease.

The 3-day events, in recognition of May as National Brain Cancer Awareness month, included CEF’s 10th Anniversary Inaugural Brains Matter Awareness Luncheon at the Bellevue Hyatt as well as a VIP brunch and wine tasting events at the SEV winery in Walla Walla.

Luncheon sponsors included the Seattle Seahawks, Snoqualmie Casino, Genentech, National Brain Tumor Society, NovoCure, Swedish Neuroscience Institute, Bonneville Seattle, the Scott Patrick Family, AT&T, Leszynski Group, and Superior Steel and Ironworks.

BRAIN FACTS

More than 22,000 Americans are diagnosed with a malignant brain cancer every year. It is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths for children under 19. About 60 to 70 percent of these cancers are glioblastoma (GBM) – the deadliest form of brain cancer with a life expectancy after diagnosis of only 12 to 14 months. CEF focuses their efforts on GBM.

About the Chris Elliott Fund

Our goal is to END BRAIN CANCER through patient advocacy, education and research. Dellann and Chris Elliott co-founded CEF 3 weeks before Chris’ death in 2002 from brain cancer. CEF is a nationally recognized model for patient advocacy and has invested over \$500,000 in support of programs to help patients fight the disease from every angle, including over \$1 million to promote cutting-edge brain cancer research. Access to advanced treatments and genetic testing extends lives and leads us closer to a cure.

www.ChrisElliottFund.org

Jean Smart BIO

A gifted and versatile actress, Jean’s talents and critical acclaim include theater, television and film. Her Emmy Awards include her guest-role on “Frasier” and Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy for “Samantha Who?” She received a fourth Emmy nomination for her role as the troubled First Lady Martha Logan on the FOX drama “24.” In 2006, “24” won Best Drama and received a Golden Globe and Screen Actor’s Guild nomination for Ensemble Cast. Jean was nominated for a Tony Award for her starring role opposite Nathan Lane on Broadway in “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” Her numerous film credits include “Life As We Know It,” with Katherine Heigl, “Lucky You,” with Robert Duvall, “Hero Wanted,” with Cuba Gooding, Jr., “Garden State,” with Natalie Portman, and “Mistress,” with Robert DeNiro, to name a few.

Key links:

Sinclair Estate Vineyards

<http://www.sinclairestatevineyards.com>

Vine and Roses Bed and Breakfast

<http://www.vineandroses.com/>

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