



GALWAY DOWNS

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Event Horse Auction Kicks Off At Galway Downs International Horse Trials**

Temecula, Calif., March 26, 2009— An exciting new event launched successfully today at the Galway Downs International Horse Trials, as more than 150 people watched eagerly while riders presented the horses for the inaugural Elite Eventing Horse Auction. The six seasoned horses, ranging in price from \$5,000 to \$50,000 performed on the flat and over fences while prospective buyers tasted a variety of wines from local Keyways Winery.

“It was exciting—a really good start,” said Wendy Wergeles, the auction organizer. Wergeles noted that two horses consigned to the auction were sold earlier this week and a third horse was unable to reach the Southern California Equestrian Center because of severe weather in the owner’s home state of Colorado.

Nevertheless, Wergeles said that buyers came expressly to view horses from as far away as New Mexico, Washington and Canada. One was Todd Trewin, a member of the U.S. eventing team at the 1992 Olympics.

“In a small way, we’ve started toward our goal: To create a top-class auction at a fabulous international event. We’ve made a great start toward our goal of creating a one-stop-shopping place for event horses and prospects,” said Wergeles.

The Elite Eventing Horse Auction is not being conducted as a live auction. Instead, prospective buyers can submit bids on horses in which they’re interested, which will be posted on a board at Galway Downs. The auction hours are from 8 a.m. Friday to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Buyers can try all the horses during that period and can modify their bids until Saturday afternoon, when the bids will close during festivities to celebrate the

event. All horses with bids above the minimum set by their consignors will be sold.

To view the horses offered, go to [www.focusonsporthorses.com](http://www.focusonsporthorses.com) and click on the Elite Eventing Horse Auction tab.

The Galway Downs International Horse Trials begin on Friday morning. For the CIC\*\*\* and CIC\*\*, dressage runs from 12:15 to 5:00 p.m., cross-country runs on Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and show jumping runs on Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the gate, with children under 12 free.

More than a dozen generous sponsors provide prize money, prizes and other support to the Galway Downs International Horse Trials. The sponsors include: Succeed, Equine Insurance of California, Toklat Originals, Sonoma Saddle Shop, CWD Saddlery, USEA, American Wood Fibers, Custom Saddlery, SmartPak Equine, Doug Hannum, APF, and the clinicians and participants in Galway Downs' annual fundraiser clinics.

For more information on the Galway Downs International Horse Trials, visit [www.galwaydowns.com](http://www.galwaydowns.com) or call 951-303-0405. To learn more about eventing, visit the U.S. Eventing Association's website ([www.useventing.com](http://www.useventing.com)).