



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS AND INTERNATIONAL VIP's CELEBRATE
25 YEARS OF FRENCH HERITAGE SOCIETY AT PREMIERE GALA**

New York, NY (October 15, 2007) - On October 13, 2007, Comte and Comtesse Patrice de Vogüé greeted more than 300 prominent Americans and international dignitaries at Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte, one of France's greatest 17th-century architectural treasures. The evening's celebrations were planned under the leadership of Honorary Co-Chairmen the Honorary Anne Cox Chambers of Atlanta, Carolyn Amory of Santa Barbara, and Karen K. Clark of Hobe Sound, Florida, and held under the auspices of The Honorable Craig R. Stapleton, Ambassador of the United States of America to France and His Excellency the former Ambassador of the Republic of France to the United States Jean-David Levitte. The event concluded a French Heritage Society program themed around Franco-American friendship that underscored the organization's advocacy role in both countries on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary.

Before the Gala began, Comte Jean-Charles de Vogüé escorted President program participants in a private tour of Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte. At 8 p.m., the Comte and Comtesse welcomed guests in a receiving line alongside FHS Chairman Elizabeth Stribling and FHS President Princesse Marie-Sol de La Tour d'Auvergne. Among those attending were Irene Roosevelt Aitken, previously married to the late John Roosevelt (son of Franklin and Eleanor); Anthony and Cetie Ames of New York; CeCe and Lee Black of New York; Stephen and Margaret Gill of Atherton, CA; Sondra Gilman, ranked one of the Top 25 Photography Collectors by *ArtNews* magazine, and her husband Celso Gonzalez-Falla of Corpus Christi, TX; Peter and Elbrun Kimmelman, of New York; Juan Pablo Molyneux of New York and Paris, one of *Architectural Digest's* "Top 100 Designers"; Axel and Naneen Neubohn of London; Phyllis J. Washington of Palm Desert, CA, owner of the French antiques gallery and boutique "Maison Felice" and President of The Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation; John and Marianne Wyman of Greenwich, CT, and many other notable guests.

The event's distinguished French attendees included Honorary Guest Her Imperial Highness La Princesse Napoléon, as well as heads of FHS's partner associations in France: Jean de Lambertye, Président de la Demeure Historique; Philippe Toussaint, Président des Vieilles Maisons Françaises; and Didier Wirth, Président du Comité des Parcs et Jardins de France. Additional guests included SAS le Prince Michel de Bourbon-Parme and SAR la Princesse Michel de Bourbon-Parme; LL.AA.SS le Prince & la Princesse Robin zu Sayn-Wittgenstein; Jean-Louis Vilgrain, Chairman and President of the JLV Group and Officier de la Légion d'honneur; Comte

Denis de Kergolay; Comtesse Henri d'Origny ; Comte & Comtesse Sixte de La Rochefoucauld; Baron & Baronne Regis de Laroullière; Mrs. Stanfield-Pinel, Event Chairman; Comte & Comtesse Flauhaut de la Billarderie, Event Vice-Chairman; and Honorary Chairman Baronne de Laroullière.

Comte Patrice de Vogüé delivered welcoming remarks to the assembled guests, commenting on his own acquisition of the Château from within his family in 1947. Princesse Marie-Sol de La Tour d'Auvergne also addressed the group, paying tribute to the organization's Founding President Michèle le Menestrel Ullrich, who attended the Gala with her husband Jose-Maria Ullrich, former French Ambassador to Pakistan.

Following the reception, guests were invited into candle-lit rooms – the château's Rotunda, Library and “Salon d'Hercule” - for a gourmet dinner prepared by Guy Martin, three-star Executive Chef of “Le Grand Véfour” in Paris. Throughout dinner, members of France Opéra, dressed in period costume, paraded from room to room, announcing each course in song and spoken-word performance. Afterwards, guest gathered outside to witness a spectacular firework performance, whose choreography was designed to both illuminate and mirror the parterres of the Château's lavish gardens, designed in the 17th Century by André Le Nôtre. Rousing music - ranging from the score of the film “Abyss” to a piece from “Turandot” at the climax – elevated the dramatic orchestration of color splayed across the night sky. At the conclusion, guests returned inside and danced late into the night.

Thanks to the ongoing support of its members, as well as foundations and corporate sponsors, French Heritage Society has continued to fulfill its mission to protect, preserve, and celebrate architectural treasures of a shared French-American history. Founded in 1982, French Heritage Society a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) that encompasses 14 American Chapters, and one in Paris, with close to several thousand members. Its achievements have made significant impact in both in France and in America, reinforcing the leading role that the organization plays in caring for the architectural heritage that is the common property and shared responsibility of both countries.

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