



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FOUR OF THE WORLD'S BEST COMMIT TO BANK OF THE WEST CLASSIC
Special Holiday promotion begins Thursday, December 4.**

Coral Gables, Fla. (www.BankOfTheWestClassic.com) – The Bank of the West Classic received an early holiday gift when it was announced that four of the world's top tennis players have committed to play the 2009 tournament including the 2008 singles champions at three of the four Grand Slam events and the current No. 1 ranked player in the world.

Next year's Bank of the West Classic, which will be held July 27-August 2 at Stanford University, will feature 2008 Australian Open Champion Maria Sharapova, two-time defending Wimbledon Champion Venus Williams, 2008 US Open Champion Serena Williams and current World No. 1 Jelena Jankovic in what is shaping up to be the most impressive player field in the tournament's 39-year history.

In recognition of this exciting news, the Bank of the West Classic would like to offer a special Holiday Promotion. From December 4 until December 29 fans can purchase individual tickets for the first and second rounds (Sessions 1-8) at 20 percent off the regular ticket price. The discount is good only for individual first and second round tickets and can not be combined with any other discount or promotion. The discount does not apply to full-week packages.

New to the Bank of the West Classic in 2009 will be a straight 32-player singles draw guaranteeing the top players will be on display during the early rounds. In previous years the tournament's top four seeds received first round byes but in 2009 they will be competing in opening round matches.

Tickets for the tournament's opening round start at just \$23.

Full-week packages, which include tickets to all 13 sessions, are also available and start at only \$525. Those who purchase a box of four full-week packages will also receive four passes to the exclusive VIP Plaza Club, four invitations to the Meet the Players Party and two VIP parking passes.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, call the Bank of the West Classic box office at 866-WTA-TIXS (866-982-8497) or log-on to www.BankoftheWestClassic.com.

Don't miss any of the action. Secure your tickets today and watch the best tennis players in the world compete at the longest-running women-only professional tennis tournament in the world.

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ABOUT THE BANK OF THE WEST CLASSIC: The Bank of the West Classic is the longest-running women-only professional tennis tournament in the world and is the first stop of the Olympus US Open Series. A Sony Ericsson WTA Tour Tier II event, the 2009 Bank of the West Classic will be held July 27-August 2 and features a 32-player singles draw and a 16-team doubles draw with total prize money of \$700,000. Held on Stanford University's campus at the Taube Family Tennis Stadium since 1997, former champions include: Billie Jean King, Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, Andrea Jaeger, Monica Seles, Martina Hingis, Lindsay Davenport and Venus Williams. The Bank of the West Classic is owned and operated by IMG.

ABOUT BANK OF THE WEST: With more than \$63 billion in assets, Bank of the West is the second-largest bank based in California. Founded in 1874, Bank of the West is a full-service financial institution with nearly 4 million accounts in more than 700 branch and commercial offices across 19 Western and Midwestern states.

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