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**JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE’S DAY, KORBEL CHAMPAGNE NAMES
TOP THREE “MARRY ME?” MOMENTS OF THE YEAR**

**Two Lucky Romeos (and One Lucky Juliet!) Pull Off Perfect Proposals
With Help from Korbel and Blue Nile**

Guerneville, Sonoma County, Calif., Feb. 10, 2005– Just in time for Valentine’s Day, Korbel Champagne Cellars announces the winners of its third annual Perfect Proposal Contest by proclaiming this year’s most unforgettable “marry me?” moments. Hundreds of entrants submitted their unique proposal ideas, and Korbel selected three lucky winners to make their dreams a reality, complete with a Blue Nile Signature Collection diamond engagement ring. The entries were judged on creativity, romantic theme and originality, and the grand prize-winning proposal earned one of the couples—Raymond Suarez and Maria Villar of New York—an unforgettable seven-day honeymoon cruise to Hawaii or the Caribbean on Norwegian Cruise Line.

“The creativity and originality of our winners’ entries made them stand out from the more than 300 people who entered The Korbel Perfect Proposal Contest this year,” said Gary Heck, Chairman and President, Korbel Champagne Cellars. “Korbel has toasted proposal moments for more than 120 years, so it’s a natural fit for us to play a part in bringing these dream proposals to life.”

Grand Prize Winner: Casino Casanova

Twenty-seven-year-old Raymond Suarez, a physician from Yonkers, N.Y., and his girlfriend, Maria Villar of Bronx, N.Y., spent their first vacation together in Atlantic City. While they didn’t win any money that weekend, they took a chance on each other and have been happy with the



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returns ever since! So for his proposal, Suarez took a romantic roll of the dice at The Paris Hotel Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. While wandering the floor of the casino, Suarez encouraged the unsuspecting Villar to pull the lever on an oversized, eight-foot tall slot machine. What Villar didn't know was that the machine's reels were rigged to spell out "WILL YOU MARRY ME?" Surrounded by Las Vegas showgirls and a crowd of cheering onlookers, Suarez dropped to one knee and offered Villar a beautiful diamond ring. Luckily, it was a gamble that paid off—Villar enthusiastically accepted!

First Prize Winner: Writing the Book of Love

Window shopping took on new meaning for 31-year-old Andre Shina of Troy, Mich., and his girlfriend Kelly Keith of Roseville, Mich. Having never visited a big city, Keith always wanted to take a shopping trip to Chicago. With this in mind, Shina dreamt up an elaborate proposal incorporating the famous windows at the flagship Marshall Field's department store. Shina whisked Keith off for a romantic weekend in Chicago where they strolled past the unique display windows at Marshall Field's. When the couple arrived at a curtain-covered window, two tuxedo-clad "Cupids" pulled back the curtain to reveal a magical "Book of Love"-themed display complete with an oversized, old-fashioned book page reading "KELLY, WILL YOU MARRY ME?" Violinists serenaded the duo as Shina declared his intentions on bended knee, in front of a crowd of Saturday afternoon shoppers. An elated Keith quickly exclaimed "Yes!"



First Prize Winner: A Twist on Tradition



Though 64 percent of male respondents in a recent survey would accept a marriage proposal from a woman, only 31 percent of female respondents said they would propose marriage to a man. Except for Kristin Dunn, that is! The Boise, Idaho resident and her boyfriend Tim Szofran, also of Boise, are self-described "plant nerds" studying horticulture at Boise State University. With their shared love of flowers and gardens in mind, Dunn dreamed of using a natural setting to eschew tradition and pop the question to Szofran. While enjoying what Szofran thought was a typical weekend getaway in Denver, the couple took a tour

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at the Denver Botanic Gardens. They stepped outside to view a special exhibit when Dunn turned Szofran to her hillside marriage proposal made of three-foot tall, flower-laden letters spelling out “MARRY ME TIM?” Szofran was stunned, but recovered to embrace Dunn as he excitedly replied “Yes!”

Tune in to *The Jane Pauley Show* on Monday, February 14 to meet the lucky winners and see how these amazing proposals came to life! Visit www.janepauleyshow.com to check local listings.

Established in 1882, Korbel Champagne Cellars has been a part of America’s greatest celebrations for more than 120 years. Korbel has been a supplier and licensee of the 1996 Olympic Games, the exclusive champagne of the past five Presidential Inaugurations, a supporter of Team Dennis Conner for the 1995 America’s Cup and the first global sponsor of *Times Square 2000* – a sponsorship that lasts through 2007.

Korbel is an Official Supporter of the 2000, 2002 and 2004 U.S. Olympic Teams and the 2002 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Korbel is the number one selling premium *méthode champenoise*-produced champagne in America. For more information, visit www.korbel.com.

Blue Nile, the premier luxury jeweler online, offers consumers a better way to buy diamonds and fine jewelry. Blue Nile consistently receives honors from such distinguished publications as *TIME*, *Forbes*, and *Real Simple*, among others. Cut exclusively for Blue Nile, every Blue Nile Signature Collection diamond is hand-selected and cut to the most exacting standards, combining expertise of diamond craftsmen and the most advanced technology available today. This devotion to perfection guarantees maximum brilliance, sparkle, and fire. The Signature Collection quality is so exceptional that it is among the top 1% of diamonds found in the world.

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