



AGUA CALIENTE
Casino • Resort • Spa
RANCHO MIRAGE

PRESS RELEASE

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**AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS TO DONATE GUITAR
AUTOGRAPHED BY MELISSA ETHERIDGE TO CHARITY APRIL 2ND**

RANCHO MIRAGE, CA (March 17, 2009) – Before taking the stage at The Show in her only Southern California appearance, Grammy®-winning artist Melissa Etheridge will autograph a guitar to be donated by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to a local charity.

Etheridge, who is a champion of charitable causes, will sign an Ovation 6-string guitar that will be donated by the Tribe to the AIDS Assistance Program of Palm Springs. The private ceremony will be held April 2nd at The Show, the tribe's new multi-million dollar entertainment venue in Rancho Mirage, California. The Tribe's 5-member council and representatives from AIDS Assistance Program will be in attendance. Later that night, the singer will take the stage "Live and Alone" in her only Southern California appearance.

Since its founding in 1991, the AIDS Assistance Program of Palm Springs remains dedicated to providing comfort and support to improve the quality of the lives of those surviving HIV/AIDS. Initiated by a small group of concerned citizens, led by the late Gloria Greene and Jeannette Rockefeller, AAP provided meals to members of the community with low incomes and suffering with HIV/AIDS. Since then, the AIDS Assistance Program's client roster has grown from approximately 20 to more than 500 people.

The AAP will auction the autographed guitar at its annual "Evening Under the Stars" fundraiser April 25th. (www.EveningUnderTheStars.com)

Melissa Etheridge and her bluesy vocal stylings have garnered a wealth of awards and lofty recognition, not to mention a fiercely loyal fan base that spans the world. She first hit her commercial and artistic stride with her fourth album, *Yes I Am* in 1993. The collection featured the massive hits, "I'm the Only One" and "Come to My Window," a song that brought Etheridge her second Grammy® Award for Best Female Rock Performance. Since then, Etheridge has won a Songwriter of the Year honor at the ASCAP Pop Awards, the distinguished ASCAP Founders Award, an Academy® Award for "I Need to Wake Up," written for the Al Gore documentary "An Inconvenient Truth," among many others.

According to those who know her, Etheridge has shown herself to be an artist who has never allowed "inconvenient truths" to keep her down. Earlier in her recording career, Etheridge acknowledged her sexual orientation when it was considered less than prudent to do so. In October of 2004, Etheridge was diagnosed with breast cancer, a health battle that, with her typical tenacity, she won. Despite losing her hair from chemotherapy, Etheridge appeared on the 2005 Grammy® telecast to sing "Piece of My Heart" in tribute to Janis Joplin. By doing so she gave hope to many women afflicted with the disease.

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Agua Caliente Casino • Resort • Spa in Rancho Mirage, California has been repeatedly voted "Best Casino" in reader's polls. It's home to 1,600 slots, a variety of table games and a wildly popular poker room. The casino offers exciting lounge entertainment plus award-winning dining, adjacent to its gorgeous new \$350 million luxury resort hotel. Guests can stay in style in 340 deluxe rooms and suites, enjoy a relaxing spa, pool and cabana complex, as well as a state-of-the-art conference center. The Show, a 2,000-seat concert theatre featuring headliners like Billy Joel, Matchbox Twenty and Tony Bennett, completes this world-class destination. For hotel reservations call: 1.866.923.7244, visit www.HotWaterCasino.com or for casino information: 1.888.999.1995.

Agua Caliente Casino • Resort • Spa is owned and operated by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.