World Auto Tour Starts in Yokohama Japan May 10, 2014

(Burlingame CA – April 30, 2014) The automobiles participating in the around the World Auto Tour have been shipped from the San Francisco Bay Area, where the tour will finish in October 2014, to Yokohama Japan, the starting point of the Tour. The first leg of the Tour, Japan to Paris, is planned as an exact replica of the "1908 Great Race", the historically significant first long distance automobile race around the world. Some historians say that momentous event changed the perception of the automobile from a fad to a viable means of long distance transportation. The American manufacturers of the Thomas Flyer won the race and proved cars had the endurance to make such a bold and complicated journey.

Luke Rizzuto and John Quam, co-organizers of the race have been planning this global event for the last 3 years after completing the United States leg of the Great Race in 2008, the 100 year anniversary of the Great Race of 1908. Luke said, "This is an adventure of a lifetime. First Japan to Paris, then Paris to Iceland and finally along the Yellowstone Trail from Plymouth, Massachusetts to Seattle, then back to the Bay Area." John added, "Part of this adventure is all the different people and vehicles that will join us on the tour. Also as the word spreads with our blogging from the countries, cities and towns we will pass through will add even more fun. We felt like VIPs in our 2008 tour across America. Bands played, streets lined with kids and adults waving flags as we passed, breakfast parties and even people dressing up in period costumes. What a blast!"

On May 10th in Yokohama the List Sotheby's International Realty office along with the management team at the Yokohama Marine Tower will host the 2014 World Auto Tour kickoff on the plaza from 9 to 10am JST. There will be picture and video opportunities, presentations of World Auto Tour Plaques from the organizers to their Japanese hosts and a live broadcast.

Today Sotheby's International Realty in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Mid-peninsula is a sponsor of the Tour and is supplying the video and web capabilities that will keep the world informed on every step of the adventure. Joining them as gracious hosts, just as the Japan office will be doing, and participating in a variety of ways are Sotheby's International Realty offices on the tour route around the globe.

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