



Altria is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the National Gallery of Art's exhibition *Della Robbia: Sculpting with Color in Renaissance Florence*.

This marks our fourteenth sponsorship of a major exhibition in thirty years as Gallery patrons.

In our long history of support for the visual and performing arts, Altria occasionally has a unique connection to the exhibitions we sponsor. Indeed, that is the case with the *Della Robbia* exhibition.

Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, an Altria company, is a collection of distinctive estate wineries whose vineyards rank among the top ten producers of premium wines in the United States. In recent years Ste. Michelle Wine Estates has been the sole U.S. importer of wines by Marchesi Antinori of Tuscany, and has forged a meaningful partnership with this family-owned winery, now in its 26th generation, to create vintages that unite our two unique winemaking cultures.

Five centuries ago, the Antinori family commissioned Giovanni della Robbia to create the *Resurrection of Christ* for their villa just south of Florence. The vibrant relief—consisting of 46 separate, glazed ceramic tiles and weighing more than 1,000 pounds—remained on a masonry wall there until 1898 when it was purchased and given to the Brooklyn Museum. With the support of the Antinori family, the Brooklyn Museum meticulously conserved and stabilized the piece so that it might be included in this current exhibition. We welcome the opportunity to help introduce this dramatic work and others to a new audience.

Altria's support for arts and cultural initiatives dates back fifty years. Today we focus on programs in Richmond, Virginia, and Washington, DC, that appeal to diverse audiences while increasing community access to the arts. We intentionally choose major sponsorships that bring positive attention and thought-provoking, world-class cultural experiences to our communities. The National Gallery of Art fosters this philosophy by being free to the public.

We hope you enjoy this exhibition and return to see other special exhibitions, the permanent collection, or to experience the National Gallery's outstanding film, music, and educational offerings.

Altria's companies have a strong American heritage stretching back more than 180 years, including some of the most enduring names in American business: Philip Morris USA and U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company. We also own John Middleton, a manufacturer of popular cigars, and our newest operating company, Nu Mark, an innovation company that makes e-vapor products.