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**MAGNUSSEN HOME INTRODUCES THE  
CRISTINA FERRARE HOME BEL CANTO BEDROOM**

**HIGH POINT, N.C., APRIL 22, 2004** – Cristina Ferrare definitely brings a woman's touch to bedroom furniture in Bel Canto, her debut collection for Magnussen Home Furnishings Inc. which will appear in stores across America later this year.

While not overly feminine, the 45-piece Bel Canto Collection from the Cristina Ferrare Home Collections, combines Old World elegance with updated styling designed with women in mind. But, as she puts it, "This is furniture that is decorative and appealing to women without being scary to the man in her life."

A rich, clear chestnut finish warms cherry veneers and solids, while generously scaled metal accents add allure. Egg and dart moldings, inverted bell acanthus carved feet and key escutcheons with tassels add classic beauty. Top drawers are lined with espresso felt, while bottom drawers feature removable cedar liners. Spanish emperador marble or a distinctive antique lava faux finishes accent some Bel Canto pieces.

"I wanted to create a bedroom that is inviting and calm, a place where you can get your thoughts together," Ferrare says. "I've added my own touches and paid particular attention to details – distinctive hinges and hardware, for example. When a

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woman gets ready to go out, she puts on her jewelry last. Then she's dressed. Good design is in the details."

"Ferrare's creative hand was crucial not only to the design, but also to the functionality of the collection," Cook says. "For example, the felt-lined jewelry drawers in the waist of the **Drawer Chest** were Ferrare's idea."

"Traditionally, the smaller jewelry drawers have always been on top. Cristina pointed out that many people are not tall enough to see inside them," Cook says. "Why not put jewelry drawers in the middle to make them more accessible?"

The **Drawer Chest** also features a distinctive open shelf inspired by Ferrare, who knows women like to display photos and other treasures without cluttering the top of the dresser. It also features a hidden compartment in the bottom drawer to protect valuables.

Similarly, when a prototype for the **Dressing Vanity** (65"W x 19"D x 61"H) included removable trays with felt-lined compartments for makeup, Ferrare pointed out the impracticality. "She liked the compartments, but said it would be difficult to clean makeup from felt," Cook says. The tray interior now is crafted of easy-to-clean wood laminate.

The vanity is decidedly feminine with a full-length patterned beveled mirror, a parquet top, scrolled metal accents and egg-and-dart base molding.

The **Vanity Chair** (17"W x 22"D x 33"H), which swivels, features a button-tufted chestnut leather seat and back and scrolled metal legs in an Old World antique finish.

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#### GRAND BEDS FIT FOR A KING

There are three elegant beds in the collection. The grand **Sleigh Bed** (66”H) features a button-tufted headboard in rich, chestnut leather and a footboard in parquet patterned cherry veneers. Hand carved details, in an Old World antique metal finish, accent the sides.

One **Four Poster Bed** (83”H) features a charming faux pewter decorative leaf and vine overlay on a cherry veneer headboard. Tapered fluted posts, carved finials and inverted bell acanthus carved feet add elegance. An arched shaped canopy top, which echoes the shape of the headboard, is optional.

Another **Four Poster Bed** (83”H) is sensuous and inviting with a soft, cocoa button-tufted suede headboard. It also features tapered fluted posts, carved finials, inverted bell acanthus carved feet and an optional canopy.

Other pieces include a **Bachelor’s Chest** (36”W x 19”D x 34”H) with a Spanish emperador marble and cherry veneer top, a **Dresser** (68”W x 21”D x 42”H) with a breakfront shape and parquet cherry veneer top, a **Nightstand** (30”W x 18”D x 29”H) with a single drawer and an open shelf for books, and an **Armoire** (51”W x 24”D x 88”H), fitted for entertainment or clothing storage, in an antique lava faux finish.

“Cristina has spent the past 30 years developing a creative relationship with American women,” says Jeff Cook, president and chief executive officer of Magnussen Home. “Her practical experience and design expertise shine throughout this collection.”

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Magnussen Home Furnishings, Inc. designs, imports, and distributes medium- and upper-medium-priced occasional tables, accent furniture and case goods across all style categories for retailers around the world. The company brings more than 20 years of experience with offshore sourcing focused on quality control of state-of-the-art technology, workmanship, finishing and timely delivery. As a result, the Magnussen Express and Accents Express programs deliver products domestically within five working days to participating retailers in the United States and Canada.

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