



# PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

## The Space for Life invites you to turn your gaze to the skies

# Five Planets to Be Visible in March!

**Montréal, March 5, 2012** – The Space for Life invites you to get out your binoculars and telescopes, open your eyes wide and get ready for some late nights, because there will be some captivating astronomical sights coming in March 2012! Five planets will be clearly visible in our skies: Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars and Mercury will all be putting in an appearance and in some cases can even be seen with the naked eye! This kind of phenomenon hasn't happened since 2004. Starting at the beginning of the month and until March 15, you can spot these far-off heavenly bodies in our galaxy from dusk until late in the night. It's an astronomical treat that's sure to delight both astronomy buffs and novices – mark it on your calendar now!

### VENUS AND JUPITER MEET UP

These two planets, the brightest bodies after the Sun and the Moon, have been chasing each other for some time already. They'll reach the finish line on the evening of March 12 and 13, with the most spectacular planetary conjunction of the year! They'll both be visible in the western sky at sunset. After putting on this show, Venus will gradually move away from Jupiter and draw closer to the Pleiades in late March.

### THE RED PLANET AND THE RINGED PLANET

Red-tinged Mars will appear in the east late in the evening. It will be closest to Earth on March 5, and will be visible all night long, almost as bright as Jupiter! Saturn, the gas giant, will also be showing up on the eastern horizon, midway through the evening in early March, and will remain visible until late in the month. If you have a telescope, you can examine its famous rings in detail, since they will be tilted at the perfect angle for observation.

### TINY BUT REMARKABLE

Mercury, the smallest planet in our solar system, will make its best appearance of the year during the first two weeks of March. You can see it shining just over the western skyline at sunset. A pair of binoculars will help you pick it out more easily.

### EVEN THE MOON GETS IN ON THE ACT!

On the evenings of March 23 to 26, the thin crescent of the Moon will be cozying up to Jupiter, Venus and the Pleiades just after sundown. The sky is really going all out to put on the best show possible in March!

*The Biodôme, Insectarium, Botanical Garden and Planetarium are launching a daring, creative urban movement, urging everyone to rethink the bonds between humankind and nature. The **Space for Life** is also a place where people come together to create and to cultivate a new way of living, shaped by Montrealers and people from around the world.*

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### Information

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