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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All-Star Lineup of Top Culinary Talent will Delight Guests at the 16th Annual Naples Winter Wine Festival

Naples, FL – September 22, 2015 – More than 20 of the nation’s top chefs will head to Naples, Florida this January for the 16th annual Naples Winter Wine Festival, taking place from January 29-31, 2016. These talented chefs have gained critical acclaim, earning a collective nine James Beard Awards and multiple James Beard Award nominations, several Michelin stars, numerous four star reviews and scores of additional accolades, including *Best New Chef*, *Rising Star* and *Best New Restaurant*, among many others. They come to Naples from 17 different cities across the United States, including 10 from California.

“We are thrilled to welcome such amazing talent to the Naples Winter Wine Festival,” said Jim Dixon, Co-Chair of the 2016 Festival. “They have all made incredible contributions running some of our country’s most ambitious restaurants, and we are so grateful for their outpouring of support to help us raise millions of dollars for children in need.”

Headlining the culinary program is Rick Tramonto, who has been selected as 2016 Chef de Cuisine in recognition of his outstanding talents and his longtime support of the Festival. This year marks the 6th time Chef Tramonto will return to Festival, singling out the Festival’s dedication to helping children in need. He established his reputation running some of Chicago’s most recognized restaurants, and in 2013 brought his talents to New Orleans, winning *New Orleans Magazine’s* “Best New Restaurant” in 2013 for his flagship project with partner John Folse, Restaurant R’evolution.

A complete list of chefs for the 2016 Festival includes:

Colin Bedford of The Farrington House Restaurant in Pittsboro, NC
Brian Boitano host of *Food Network’s* “What Would Brian Make” in San Francisco, CA
Nash Cognetti of Tra Vigne in St. Helena, CA
Gary Danko of Restaurant Gary Danko in San Francisco, CA
Curtis Duffy of Grace in Chicago, IL
John Folse of Restaurant R’evolution in New Orleans, LA
Ken Frank of La Toque in Napa, CA
Sarah Grueneberg of Monteverde in Chicago, IL

Jen Jasinski of Rioja in Denver, CO
Daniel Joly of Mirabelle in Beaver Creek, CO
Gerry Klaskala of Aria in Atlanta, GA
Emily Luchetti of Marlowe, Park Tavern, and The Cavalier in San Francisco, CA
Tory Miller of L'Etoile in Madison, WI
Nancy Oakes of Boulevard Restaurant in San Francisco, CA
Patrick O'Connell of The Inn at Little Washington in St. Washington, VA
Richard Reddington of REDD and Redd Wood in Yountville, CA
Bryce Shuman of Betony in New York, NY
Holly Smith of Café Juanita in Kirkland, WA
Craig Stoll of Delfina in San Francisco, CA
Ari Taymor of Alma Restaurant in Los Angeles, CA
Bill Telepan of Telepan in New York, NY
Rick Tramonto of Restaurant R'evolution in New Orleans, LA
Dustin Valette of Valette in Healdsburg, CA

In addition to enjoying memorable meals, guests to the Naples Winter Wine Festival will taste top wines produced around the world, including from this year's Honored Vintners, Paul and Emily Michael of the Peter Michael Winery.

Since its inception, the Festival has raised more than \$135 million dollars to support its founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation, whose annual grants have provided more than 200,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel.

Ticket packages to this year's Naples Winter Wine Festival, limited to 580 guests, start at \$10,000 per couple. Also available is a \$25,000 package that includes reserved seating for a party of four at a vintner dinner and under the auction tent. For more information about the Naples Winter Wine Festival, please visit <http://www.napleswinefestival.com> or call 888-837-4919.

About the Naples Winter Wine Festival

The Naples Winter Wine Festival is one of the world's most prestigious charity wine auctions, bringing together renowned vintners and chefs with wine enthusiasts and philanthropists for a three-day Festival that raises millions of dollars for underprivileged and at-risk children. Every dollar raised under the tent funds the Festival's founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), whose annual grants and strategic initiatives have provided more than 200,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. For more information, please visit [Napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com).

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