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Wine Legend Pierre Lurton named Honored Vintner of 2017 Naples Winter Wine Festival

This fourth-generation winemaker brings unmatched wisdom and skill to this anticipated event

Naples, FL – June 14, 2016 – This January, the Naples Winter Wine Festival will welcome Pierre Lurton as the Honored Vintner of the 2017 event, well-known for running two of the most acclaimed wineries in the world: centuries-old Château Cheval Blanc and Château d'Yquem, both located in France's Bordeaux region. He will be joined by revered vintners from around the world at the 17th annual Naples Winter Wine Festival, scheduled for January 27-29, 2017 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, FL.

For more than ten years, Pierre has ensured that the mythic wines of Château Cheval Blanc and Château d'Yquem continue to build upon their outstanding reputation, complexity, and remarkable longevity. These wineries have been in operation since the 1800s, and have consistently produced exceptional vintages: for example, the 1811 Château d'Yquem received a perfect tasting score in 1996, and Château Cheval Blanc is one of only four wines to receive the prestigious Premier Grand Cru Classé (A) rank, a title it has enjoyed since 1954. In his spare time, Pierre produces some of the best red and white Bordeaux wine at his home estate, Château Marjosse.

"It is truly a pleasure to be honored at this Festival among some of the most respected vintner in the wine world," said Lurton. "I look forward to being able to share my experience with esteemed colleagues and connoisseurs, all while contributing to improving the wellbeing of children in need."

At the Naples Winter Wine Festival, Pierre will share his knowledge with guests and pour some of his most lauded wines. No stranger to this event, Pierre has also made his mark on the Festival's greater mission, with two separate auction lots that included a private tour and tasting at Cheval Blanc and a special lunch with him at Cheval Blanc.

"We are overjoyed that Pierre is yet again contributing his time and talent to the Naples Winter Wine Festival," said 2017 co-chair Scott Lutgert. "It is wonderful to see such a renowned vintner share both expertise and generosity in supporting an event that does so much for the children of our community."

This January, guests to the Festival will have the chance to bid on still more wine and travel experiences, each notable not only for its uniqueness and luxury, but also for its connection to a good cause. Since

the event's inception in 2001, the Naples Winter Wine Festival has raised more than \$146 million for its founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), which has awarded grants to more than 40 non-profit organizations that have impacted the lives of over 200,000 children.

Ticket packages to this exclusive event, limited to 580 guests, start at \$10,000 per couple. A \$25,000 package is also available that includes reserved seating for a party of four at a vintner dinner and under the tent. To inquire about tickets to the Naples Winter Wine Festival, please contact Barrett Farmer at barrett@napleswinefestival.com or 239-514-2239.

About the Naples Winter Wine Festival

The Naples Winter Wine Festival is the most successful international charity wine auction in the world, 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.

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