



Contact:

Lana Gersten | 312.846.1655 | lgersten@groupgordon.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vintners Paul and Emily Michael of Acclaimed Peter Michael Winery will be honored at the 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival

Naples, FL – July 7, 2015 – In recognition of their remarkable stewardship of one of the most decorated California wineries of all time, second generation proprietors Paul and Emily Michael of the Peter Michael Winery have been selected as the Honored Vintners for the 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival. The son and daughter-in-law of founders Sir Peter and Lady Michael, Paul and Emily carry on the Michael family legacy of producing wines that stand the test of time.

The 2016 Festival marks the third time guests will enjoy the estate's wines, which are some of the most highly rated in the world. Out of 214 reviews by famed wine critic Robert Parker, Jr., 200 were awarded 90 or more points and five received perfect 100-point scores.

"We are thrilled to continue our family's support of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, one of the most important festivals in our industry, and to be honored amongst such accomplished and talented peers," said Paul Michael. "We are deeply passionate about philanthropy and wine, and the Festival is such a powerful way to bring the two together," added Emily Michael. "Hundreds of thousands of children in need benefit from this event, and we're proud to be part of that legacy in Collier County."

In 1976, Sir Peter Michael tasted a bottle of Chateau Montelena, the very same wine that bested the top French wines at the legendary "Judgment of Paris" blind tasting. An entrepreneur at heart, he couldn't bear to sit back and watch a burgeoning California wine industry from afar. Instead, he bought a plot of land and built what is now recognized as a giant in California winemaking.

It is serendipitous that the 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival will also kick off the 40th anniversary celebrations of the "Judgment of Paris" with a special tasting of Chateau Montelena and Stag's Leap Wine Cellars.

"Since its founding, the Peter Michael Winery has continuously produced balanced and elegant wines while remaining committed to impactful philanthropic work," said Sandi Moran, Vintner Chair and Co-Chair of the 2016 Naples Winter Wine Festival. "We are so honored that Paul and Emily have generously donated their time and talents to the Naples Winter Wine Festival and to the children in Collier County who will benefit from their work."

Indeed, over its 15-year history, the Festival has raised more than \$135 million 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.

In addition to the Peter Michael Winery, the Naples Winter Wine Festival will also draw top vintners and chefs from around the world for a weekend of incredible wine and food. Guests will enjoy private vintner dinners that pair some of the most awarded vintners in the world with the most talented chefs as well as an electrifying live auction offering the chance to bid on one-of-a-kind travel experiences, limited edition cars, and unique wine lots not available to the general public.

Ticket packages to this year's Naples Winter Wine Festival, limited to 580 guests, start at \$10,000 per couple. A \$25,000 package that includes reserved seating for a party of four at a vintner dinner and under the tent is also available. 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.

###