

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Contact:

Lana Gersten

312-846-1655

[LGersten@GroupGo](mailto:LGersten@GroupGo.com)

rdon.com



**Wine Legend Marchese Piero Antinori Named Honored Vintner for 2015
Naples Winter Wine Festival
*Antinori One of 41 Preeminent Vintners Selected to Attend Festival***

Naples, FL –August 11, 2014 – Marchese Piero Antinori, president of *Marchesi Antinori*, one of the most historic and prestigious names in Italian winemaking, has been selected as the Honored Vintner for the 2015 Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF), a premier charity wine auction. The Naples Winter Wine Festival, which will take place from January 23-25 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, FL, also unveiled 40 other world-renowned vintners who will participate in the 2015 festival.

"I am excited and thrilled for having been selected as the 2015 Honored Vintner," said Marchese Piero Antinori. "It's the first time that an Italian producer has received such an honor at the Naples Winter Wine Festival, and I consider it a great tribute to all wines and vintners of my country."

Each year, one vintner, who has significantly contributed to the Naples Winter Wine Festival, is asked to represent his/her fellow vintners. *Marchesi Antinori*, which dates back to the 14th century and now boasts 27 generations of wine producers, is famous for three of the world's most iconic wines: *Tignanello*, *Solaia*, and *Guado al Tasso*. Regarded as a pioneer and innovator, Marchese Piero Antinori has almost single-handedly changed the way wine is produced in Italy, having been credited with propelling the Super Tuscan wines to the forefront of Italian winemaking. 2015 will mark his fifth appearance at the Naples Winter Wine Festival.

In addition to Marchese Antinori, this year's event will feature some of the most talented and respected vintners from three dozen wineries in 15 global wine-producing regions, seven countries, and four continents, in the northern and southern hemispheres. These top vintners have created some of the most sought-after and collectable wines in the world. They are regularly recognized for their contributions by wine enthusiasts across the globe.

"Each participating vintner is a giant in the industry, and we are thrilled that they are volunteering their time and talent to this amazing event," said Sandi Moran, Vintner Chair and Co-Chair of the 2015 festival. "These renowned vintners, paired with the finest chefs and our country's most generous philanthropists, will help raise millions of dollars for underprivileged and at-risk children."

The other esteemed vintners for this year's festival include:

Featured Dinner Vintners – Will pour during intimate dinners hosted by Festival Trustees in elegant, private homes and settings throughout Naples.

Santiago Achával of **Achával-Ferrer** in Mendoza, Argentina

Paul Leary of **Blackbird Vineyards** in Napa Valley, California

Deb Whitman & Ed Fitts of **BRAND Napa Valley** in St. Helena, California
Nick Allen of **Carte Blanche Wines** in Napa Valley, California
Roberta Ceretto of **Ceretto** in Alba, Italy
Blakesley & Cyril Chappellet of **Chappellet Vineyard** in St. Helena, California
Paul Pontallier of **Château Margaux** in Margaux, France
Thomas Duroux of **Château Palmer** in Margaux, France
Nicolas Glumineau of **Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande** in Pauillac, France
Ann Colgin & Joe Wender of **Colgin Cellars** in St. Helena, California
Tim Mondavi & Carissa Mondavi of **Continuum** in St. Helena, California
Shahpar & Darioush Khaledi of **Darioush** in Napa Valley, California
Claude & Laurent Ponsot of **Domaine Ponsot** in Morey-Saint-Denis, France
Grace & Ken Evenstad of **Domaine Serene** in Dayton, Oregon
Bill Foley of **Foley Johnson** in Healdsburg, California
Valerie Boyd & Jeff Gargiulo of **Gargiulo Vineyards** in Napa Valley, California
Dan Kosta of **Kosta Browne Winery** in Sebastopol, California
Cinzia Merli of **Le Macchiole** in Bolgheri, Italy
Véronique Drouhin-Boss of **Maison Joseph Drouhin** in Beaune, France
Manuel Louzada of **Numanthia** in Valdefinjas, Spain
Betty O'Shaughnessy & Paul Woolls of **O'Shaughnessy Winery** in Angwin, California
Deborah & Bill Harlan and Amanda & Will Harlan of **Promontory** in Oakville, California
Merle & Peter Mullin of **Ram's Gate Winery** in Sonoma, California
Beth Novak Milliken of **Spottswoode Estate Vineyards & Winery** in St. Helena, California
Barbara Banke of **Vérité / Tenuta di Arceno** in Santa Rosa, California and Siena, Italy

Champagne Sponsor – Will pour during the Krug Tasting & Luncheon event and during champagne receptions at each of the 16 private vintner dinners.

Olivier Krug of **Krug Champagne** in Reims, France

Port Vintner – Will pour during the dessert course at each of the 16 private vintner dinners.

Dominic Symington of **Symington Family Estates** in Douro, Portugal

Featured Luncheon Vintners – Will pour during a luncheon after Meet the Kids Day, where guests witness first-hand the life-changing impact of the Naples Winter Wine Festival.

Bridgit & Stephen Griessel of **Betz Family Winery** in Woodinville, Washington
Andrea Farinetti, of **Borgogno Wines** in Barolo, Italy
Ann & Dick Grace of **Grace Family Vineyards** in St. Helena, California
Juan Mercado of **Realm Cellars** in St. Helena, California

VIP Party / Auction Day Vintners – Will pour at the opening party and prior to the start of the electrifying live auction.

Pam Starr of **Crocker & Starr Wines** in St. Helena, California
Todd Newman of **Dakota Shy Wine** in St. Helena, California
Mike Farmer & Lucas Farmer of **Euclid Wines** in Napa Valley, California
Augustin Huneus of **Flowers Vineyard & Winery** in Napa Valley, California
Carole & Michael Marks of **Gemstone Vineyards** in St. Helena, California
Helen Keplinger & DJ Warner of **Keplinger** in Napa Valley, California
Melinda Kearney & Michèle Ouellet of **LORENZA** in St. Helena, California
Jenny Marie & Rutger de Vink of **RdV Vineyards** in Delaplane, Virginia
Gary, Rosella & Adam Francioni of **ROAR Wines** in Soledad, California

Guests at the Naples Winter Wine Festival will savor incomparable cuisine and taste award-winning, cult classic wines. They will also have the opportunity to bid on exceptional wines, unforgettable dining experiences, and custom travel packages.

Ticket packages to this exclusive event are available and start at \$8,500 per couple for festival tickets, with a \$20,000 package that includes reserved seating for a party of four at the same vintner dinner and under the 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 around 200,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. For more information, please visit [Napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com).

###