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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wine Industry Giants to Descend on Florida this January for the 16th Annual Naples Winter Wine Festival

Naples, FL – September 8, 2015 – A star-studded lineup featuring some of the most celebrated vintners from around the world will head to Naples, Florida for the 16th annual Naples Winter Wine Festival, taking place from January 29-31, 2016. In attendance will be proprietors from more than 40 wineries in 13 global wine-producing regions, eight countries, and three continents. These top vintners will pour some of the most sought-after and collectable wines in the world for Festival guests.

“One reason the Naples Winter Wine Festival is so special is that we consistently attract the world’s most beloved and celebrated vintners,” said Sandi Moran, Vintner Chair and Co-Chair of the 2016 Festival. “The influence of this year’s vintners on the global wine world is unparalleled, and we are so grateful that they are contributing their time to help us raise millions of dollars for children in need.”

Leading the impressive lineup are Paul and Emily Michael of the Peter Michael Winery, who have been selected as Honored Vintners because of their unwavering commitment to the Festival and uncanny ability to produce many of the most highly rated wines in the world. Of the 214 reviews of their wine by legendary critic Robert Parker, Jr., 200 were awarded 90 or more points and five received perfect 100-point scores.

Also in attendance will be Ted Baseler of Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars and Bo Barrett of Chateau Montelena, who will hold a special tasting on January 28, one day before the Festival officially begins, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the “Judgment of Paris.” At this notable event in U.S. wine history, these two American wineries bested the top châteaux and domaines of Bordeaux and Burgundy in a blind tasting, catapulting California wines onto the world stage.

Full vintner lineup for the 2016 Festival:

Vintage Cellar Vintners – Will pour at the pre-Festival Wine Tasting and Luncheon to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Judgment of Paris.

Bo Barrett of **Chateau Montelena** in Calistoga, California
Ted Baseler of **Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars** in Napa, California

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

Ann & Dick Grace of **Grace Family Vineyards** in St. Helena, California
Florenca Palmaz of **Palmaz Vineyards** in Napa, California
Jennifer & Stephen McPherson of **Promise** in St. Helena, California
Jenny Marie & Rutger de Vink of **RdV Vineyards** in Delaplane, Virginia
Susan & Tor Kenward of **TOR Kenward Family Wines** in St. Helena, California

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

Marilisa Allegrini of **Allegrini Estates** in Valpolicella, Italy
Jean Charles Boisset of **Boisset Collection** in St. Helena, California
Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy of **Château Clerc Milon** in Bordeaux, France
Isabel & François Perrin of **Château de Beaucastel** in Rhône, France
Mary & Terry Peabody of **Craggy Range Vineyards** in Havelock North, New Zealand
Shahpar & Darioush Khaledi of **Darioush** in Napa, California
Grace & Ken Evenstad of **Domaine Serene** in Dayton, Oregon
Thibault Liger-Belair of **Domaine Thibault Liger-Belair** in Burgundy, France
Valerie Boyd & Jeff Gargiulo of **Gargiulo Vineyards** in Oakville, California
Amy Marks of **Gemstone Vineyards** in Yountville, California
Pam & George Hamel, Jr. of **Hamel Family Wines** in Sonoma, California
Bill Price, III of **Kistler Vineyards** in Sebastopol, California
Maggie Henriquez of **Krug Champagne** in Champagne, France
Nancy & John Lasseter of **Lasseter Family Winery** in Glen Ellen, California
Lamberto Frescobaldi of **Marchesi de' Frescobaldi** in Tuscany, Italy
Ali & Charles Banks of **Mayacamas & Trinity Hill** in Napa, California
David Pearson of **Opus One** in Oakville, California
Emily & Paul Michael of **Peter Michael Winery** in Calistoga, California
Teri & Ron Kuhn of **Pillar Rock Vineyard** in Napa, California
Agustin Francisco Huneus of **Quintessa** in Napa, California
Juan Mercado of **Realm Cellars** in St. Helena, California
Fernando Remírez de Ganuza of **Remírez de Ganuza** in Rioja, Spain
Annette & Doug Shafer of **Shafer Vineyards** in Napa, California
Shari & Garen Staglin of **Staglin Family Vineyard** in Rutherford, California
Robert Haas of **Tablas Creek Vineyard** in Paso Robles, California
Michael Twelftree of **Two Hands Wines** in Barossa Valley, Australia
Elisa Kwon & Pablo Álvarez of **Vega Sicilia** in Ribera del Duero, Spain
Barbara Banke of **Vérité** in Healdsburg, California

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

Roy Chapin IV of **4 Winds Winery** in Napa, California
Susan Krausz of **Arkenstone Estate Winery** in Angwin, California
Joe Donelan of **Donelan Family Wines** in Santa Rosa, California
Tony Lombardi of **Lombardi Wines** in Cotati, California

Reneé & Goran Radević of **Radević Estate Wines** in Podgorica, Montenegro
Roman Roth of **Wölffer Estate Vineyard** in Sagaponack, New York
Steven Spurrier of **Bride Valley Vineyards** in Dorset, England

The following Central Coast wineries will have their own designated pouring station at the Auction Day Luncheon.

Jim Clendenen of **Au Bon Climat** in Santa Barbara, California
Frank Ostini of **Hitching Post/Hartley-Ostini** in Santa Barbara, California
Justin Baldwin of **Justin Vineyards & Winery** in Paso Robles, California
Bob Lindquist of **Qupe Wine Cellars** in Santa Barbara, California
Justin Smith of **Saxum Vineyards** in Paso Robles, California
Bion Rice of **Sunstone Vineyard & Winery** and **Artiste Winery & Tasting Studio** in Santa Barbara, California
Brian Talley of **Talley Vineyards** in Arroyo Grande, California
Maurice Wedell of **Wedell Cellars** in Arroyo Grande, California

In addition to these vintners, the Naples Winter Wine Festival will feature top culinary talent, including Chef de Cuisine, Rick Tramonto of Restaurant R'evolution in New Orleans.

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.

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