

Great Wine, Great Food, Great Cause

Sure to impress again this year, the Naples Winter Wine Festival adds exclusive wine tasting.

What started as a mere conversation between friends of the Naples Children and Education Foundation (NCEF), turned into one of the world's most successful charity wine auctions: the Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF).

"Since the festival's inception, we have had one goal: to raise as much as possible for children in need," says Valerie Boyd, 2017 co-chair and founding trustee. "Every dollar raised at the live auction goes to the Naples Children & Education Foundation, whose annual grants and strategic initiatives have fundamentally changed outcomes for thousands of children

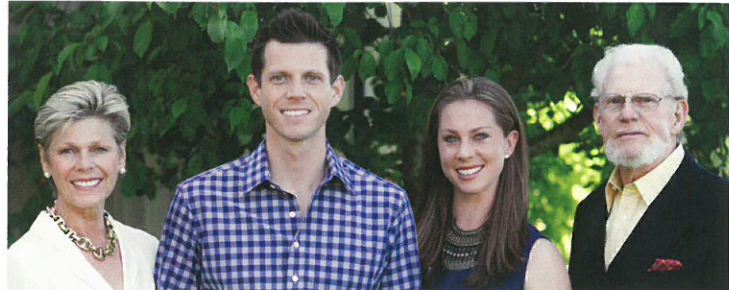
in need. We want to keep that momentum going."

The 2017 NWWF, slated for late January, will be co-chaired by four couples: Boyd and Jeff Gargiulo,

Denise and Brian Cobb, Simone and Scott Lutgert and Debbi and Bill Cary. And, together, they are turning this year's festival up a notch.

For example, this year's pre-festival Vintage Cellar will be an impressive vertical tasting of the prized California winery, the Harlan Estate, which produces some of the world's most sought after wine. "We are particularly excited to offer the chance to taste their remarkable 100-point vintages from 2001 and 2007," Scott Lutgert says. He also explains that the event, hosted by Will Harlan, will give ticketholders expert insight from Antonio Galloni, as well as the Harlans.

In addition to great wine, the NWWF is also known for fabulous food, with a renowned featured chef leading the annual culinary escapades. This year, Wolfgang Puck will tantalize attendees' taste buds. "He is the only individual to have twice won the James Beard Foundation 'Outstanding Chef of the Year Award,' and is a member of the Culinary Hall of Fame," Jeff Gargiulo says. "Chef Puck has also been a very



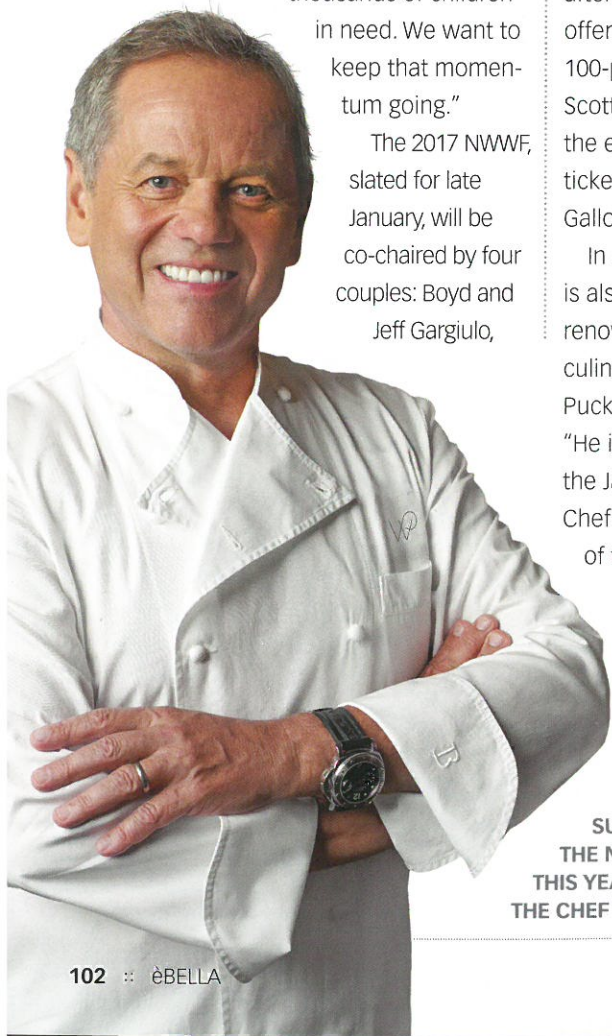
THE HARLAN ESTATE, A FAMILY-OWNED WINERY IN CALIFORNIA, WILL PROVIDE THE WINE FOR THIS YEAR'S VINTAGE CELLAR—A VERTICAL TASTING OF THEIR VINTAGE REDS—PRECEDING THE NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL. THE HARLAN FAMILY IS PICTURED ABOVE: MOTHER, DEBORAH, SON, WILL, DAUGHTER, AMANDA AND FATHER AND PROPRIETOR, BILL HARLAN.

CREDIT: HARLAN ESTATE

generous supporter of the Naples Winter Wine Festival and the community we serve."

Traditionally, the NWWF raises a tremendous amount of money for the NCEF through the amazing food and wine, but it also features a renowned artist whose work is auctioned to the highest bidder. "We are excited to feature Eric Forstmann, an American painter known for his skill in creating impressively realistic still lifes. One lucky bidder will win a custom painting that he created specifically for the 2017 Naples Winter Wine Festival," Simone Lutgert says.

The festival attracts celebrities from across the country, however, "there's no guest of honor more important than the thousands of kids we are supporting with the funds raised at the Naples Winter Wine Festival," Debbi Cary says. ❁



RENOWNED CHEF WOLFGANG PUCK IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE NWWF, AND THIS YEAR HE WILL BE THE CHEF DE CUISINE.

If you go ...

What: Naples Winter Wine Festival

When: Jan. 27-29

Benefits: Naples Children and Education Foundation

More: NaplesWineFestival.com



CREDIT: AMANDA MARGALIS