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Bejeweled adventures and thrilling sports trips among Naples Winter Wine Festival auction lots

NAPLES, Fla. (Dec. 21, 2012) – Naples Winter Wine Festival revealed a sampling of non-wine lots set for its live auction on Jan. 26, 2013 – Day Two of the world-renowned charity event. Teeming with special experiences and precious jewels, the lots join a previously announced line-up of rare-wine offerings. Altogether, 65 lots will be auctioned to benefit underprivileged and at-risk children through Naples Children & Education Foundation, the founding organization of the festival.

With 580 guests gathered under the auction tent at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples, bidders will vie to walk the red carpet and attend the 2013 Emmy Awards; scoop up jewels from Chopard, Bulgari and other fine jewelers as part of special excursions; depart on a South African safari replete with Graff diamonds; take a guys' hunting and fishing trip to Scotland and a ladies' haute couture trip to Paris; go around the world on a private jet; and attend the Masters, including golfing at Augusta National the morning after the tournament.

According to Bob Edwards, NCEF trustee and festival chair with his wife Terry, collecting out-of-this-world auction lots was a challenge he grew to embrace. "I've really enjoyed working with each donor to gather the perfect lot elements, and we've collected what may be the largest number of special experiences ever auctioned at the festival. All the NCEF trustees are so gratified by donors' generosity, which will directly benefit underprivileged and at-risk children."

Following are highlights of experience lots offered at the festival. Descriptions of all 65 lots will be posted in the near future at www.napleswinefestival.com.

Mythical Greek Odyssey Aboard S/Y Moonstone, lot 5, is a seven-night private cruise for three couples in the Greek Islands and along the Turkish Coast aboard the Catamaran S/Y Moonstone. A crew of three handles sailing duties, and an on-board chef prepares fine Mediterranean cuisine. The yacht offers 1,100 square feet of deck space and an upper deck for dining under the stars. A multitude of sea toys are at the winners' disposal, from water skis to snorkeling-and-fishing equipment.

Laps and Links, lot 9, combines golf, performance driving and a competitive spirit. This two-night trip for four couples begins with roundtrip airfare to Greenville, S.C., and includes luxury suite accommodations at Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N. C., with spa, dining and golf. The competition to win a one-year lease for a 2013 7-series BMW gets winners revved up with a private performance-driving session, taught by veteran motorsports instructors, at BMW's Spartanburg campus. After experiencing these BMWs winding through the Appalachian Mountains to Grove Park Inn, and playing a spirited round of golf, the winner will be announced during a dinner prepared by award-winning chef Katie Button at Cûrate in Asheville.

Wheels Up, Wings Wide - A Luxurious World Awaits, lot 12, is a 22-day, around-the-world trip for one couple on a luxury jet specially designed for 50 passengers and crew. The jet travels to Panama, Easter Island, Fiji, Australia's Adelaide and Kangaroo Island, Bali, India, Kenya and Portugal. The winners stay at five-star hotels and enjoy experiences such as intimate tours, gala evenings, special entertainment, dining at top restaurants and the services of a tour manager.

How the West Was Won, lot 16, has winners walking the red carpet and howling with wolves. Two couples stay three nights at the Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire Hotel and walk the red carpet at the 2013 Primetime Emmy Awards. They also have orchestra-level VIP seats for the Emmys, and rub shoulders with celebrities at the HBO after party. Dinner at Spago Beverly Hills, a Malibu wine tour, golf at Trump

National or a spa visit are among the other Southern California experiences. Then it's time to wind down in Sedona, Arizona, with four nights of suite accommodations at Sedona Rouge Hotel & Spa, including golf, spa treatments, hot air balloon ride, raft float trip, winery tours, personal vortex tour, private helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon and special dinner at REDS Restaurant. Winners also hike into red rock canyons for a howling session with wolves, a spiritual experience used by mind-body healing guru Deepak Chopra. A 16-bottle selection of Araujo Estate wine puts the finishing touch on the lot.

Whisky, Golf and Heritage at an Exclusive Scottish Mansion, lot 21, is an unforgettable trip to Scotland for eight gentlemen for four nights at the 17th century Scottish Neoclassical mansion, Kinross House. Included are round-trip, business-class airline tickets, golf at Gleneagles, a helicopter tour over historic Edinburgh; hunting and fishing on Kinross grounds; distillery visits; and a final dinner hosted by a well known Scottish personality. To ensure the winners are perfectly outfitted for their hunting forays, included for each guy is an exclusive, hand-made, custom-fit shooting jacket from Holland & Sherry.

You Cannes and You Will, lot 28, transports two couples via round-trip, business-class air to the South of France to walk the red carpet and attend a movie premiere at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival. Winners stay three nights at a five-star hotel on the Croisette, enjoy private car service throughout, mingle with the stars at a private cocktail party in the Chopard VIP Lounge, dine in celebrated restaurants and have a private preview of Chopard's 2013 Red Carpet Haute Joaillerie Collection. Each couple also receives a ladies Chopard timepiece from the Imperiale Collection. The glamour keeps going as the couples head to Provence and a spectacular 17th century farmhouse that has been converted into a contemporary house by distinguished architect Claudio Silvestrin. During the one-week stay, winners have access to wine tours, golf at Domaine St. Endreol and more.

So Close, Yet Safari Away, lot 45, is a South Africa experience for three couples for 13 nights. The trip includes a four-night Singita safari with upscale accommodations, three nights at the Delaire Graff Estate in Stellenbosch, three nights at the Kurland private estate in Plettenberg Bay, and three nights at Ellerman House in Cape Town. Adding more than a bit of bling, the lot delivers a \$50,000 Graff jewelry credit for each woman. Trip experiences include a special dinner at Indochine Restaurant, an Ellerman wine experience, Dom Pérignon pairing menu, and visits to Franschhoek's and Stellenbosch's best wineries.

Mmm ... Marvelously Madcap Mandarin Mania! lot 48, is a Far East experience for two couples. Winners spend two nights in premier grand rooms at Mandarin Oriental in Tokyo; two nights in executive suites at Mandarin Oriental in Bangkok; two nights in Oriental suites at Mandarin Oriental in Hong Kong; and two nights in waterfront suites at Mandarin Oriental in Macau. Among the experiences are spa treatments and a special dinner at iconic chef Pierre Gagnaire's Michelin two-star restaurant Pierre Gagnaire.

C'est Magnifique, lot 40, is the ultimate Parisian trip for eight ladies who love culture and haute couture. The winners spend five nights in Paris in executive suites at Le Meurice, with private car service and guides throughout. Among their destinations are the Eiffel Tower and other landmarks, famous museums such as the Louvre, and the private quarters of Louis XV and Louis XVI. They also go to Paris' popular outdoor markets with a food critic and visit a local boulangerie to learn about French bread baking. In addition, they enjoy a full-day introduction to the closed-world of haute couture fashion; visit several legendary Parisian fashion houses for behind-the-scenes tours; and take a cruise along the Seine aboard the yacht, Don Juan II, with dinner prepared by Michelin two-star chef Jean-Pierre Vigato.

It's Masters Weekend – Bring Your Clubs! lot 54, is a serious golf-lovers' trip to the 2013 Masters Tournament for two couples. The trip includes flying private air; four badges for three days at the 2013 Masters Tournament in Augusta, Ga.; access to NetJets' private Masters party hosted by TV commentator Jim Nantz; access to the Double Eagle Club; and the unheard-of opportunity for two people to play

Augusta National on Monday morning following the Tournament.

Triple Treat, lot 63, is an ultra-luxury excursion for four couples for nine nights to three of Aman's premier North American properties. In Turks and Caicos, the travelers stay at Amanyara for three nights in a four-bedroom beach villa, with a special private dinner, and workshops on Italian wine and cooking with wood-fired ovens. In Jackson Hole, Wyoming, they stay at Amangani for three nights in a four-bedroom mountain villa, including a wildlife expedition into the Grand Tetons. In Southern Utah, winners stay at Amangiri for three nights in a four-bedroom mesa villa, with a guided mesa climb. Private air to Wyoming and Utah is included. A selection of Sine Qua Non wine and Next of Kyn Syrah complete the lot.

The Naples Children & Education Foundation has raised more than \$107 million at the Naples Winter Wine Festival since 2001 to create and expand charitable programs serving underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County. As a direct result of the investments of NCEF, more than 150,000 children have had their lives improved.

The Naples Winter Wine Festival is ranked by Wine Spectator magazine as the nation's top charity wine auction since 2004. The festival is planned and executed by NCEF trustees, foundation staff and hundreds of volunteers.

Festival events span three days, beginning with Meet the Kids Day, during which guests interact with children who have benefited from festival proceeds. Guests enjoy wine tastings throughout the weekend. They also attend intimate dinners prepared by famous chefs at private homes of NCEF trustees and supporters, with wines selected and poured by renowned vintners and top sommeliers. A festival highlight takes place at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples – a founding sponsor of the festival – with a culinary showcase and live auction. A wine-down party that evening and brunch the next day bring festivities to a close.

Festival ticket packages are \$8,500 per couple; \$20,000 for reserved seating at the same vintner dinner for two couples. For a schedule of 2013 festivities and more information about the Naples Winter Wine Festival, or to make a donation, visit www.napleswinefestival.com or call 888-837-4919.

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