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Longtime Festival Supporters and Featured Vintners, Bart and Daphne Araujo, to Receive First-Ever Lifetime Achievement Award

Naples, FL – December 16, 2014 – Famed Napa Valley winemakers Bart and Daphne Araujo will be honored with the first-ever Naples Winter Wine Festival Lifetime Achievement Award, which will be presented during the Festival weekend, from January 23-25 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, Florida. They are being recognized for their passion for producing extraordinary wine and their longstanding commitment to supporting the Festival and improving the lives of children in need.

For almost a quarter of a century, Bart and Daphne Araujo have been actively involved with Napa Valley winegrowing as owners of one of California's most historic vineyard sites, the Eisele Vineyard. A fifth generation Californian, Bart's family ties to ranching and years of business experience prepared him well for the task of developing and managing a world-class wine estate. Daphne's formal training in landscape architecture influenced all aspects of the estate, including the vineyard, winery, olive groves and fruit and vegetable gardens. The vineyard, groves and gardens were converted to organic and Biodynamic farming and the resulting production of estate-grown Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Sauvignon Blanc and Olive Oil received critical acclaim.

"The care they put into creating one of the most highly touted cabernet sauvignon vineyards in Napa Valley is only surpassed by their passion for helping those less fortunate," said Sandi Moran, Vintner Chair and Co-Chair of the Naples Winter Wine Festival. "Their commitment to our cause and countless donations to the Festival auction over the years are unsurpassed, and we couldn't think of more fitting recipients for this inaugural award."

Bart and Daphne Araujo first attended the Naples Winter Wine Festival as Featured Vintners in 2002, and they continued to return to support the Festival year after year. In total, their donated auction lots have generated over \$1.1 million for underprivileged and at-risk children, and their legendary wine has always been a favorite among Festival patrons.

"Being honored as the Naples Winter Wine Festival's first Lifetime Achievement Award recipients is a humbling experience for us," said Daphne Araujo. "Since we first came to the Festival many years ago, we have been impressed by how the Festival has made a difference in the lives of the disadvantaged residents of Collier County and beyond."

"To be recognized by this extraordinary group for what we have accomplished in the world of wine is a singular honor," added Bart Araujo. "This award also reinforces the importance of wine as a catalyst for philanthropy, a source of contributions to many worthy causes that have allowed us to make a difference."

Now, a new chapter is emerging for the Araujos. In July 2013, after receiving an unsolicited expression of interest, they sold their storied Araujo Estate and its Eisele Vineyard to the Pinault family, the French owners

of Château Latour. The Pinault family was the perfect buyer to maintain the legacy of this outstanding property and exceptional wine for future generations.

The Araujos have since acquired a new home in Oakville with a very promising Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard, and another property in the St Helena appellation with more Cabernet vineyards and a permit to build a winery. Working with their winemaker of 21 years, Françoise Peschon, the Araujos intend to release their first wines under their new label, Accendo Cellars. The 2013 Sauvignon Blanc will debut in 2015 and the 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon will be released in 2016.

The public will have the opportunity to taste the exceptional wines of over 40 world-class vintners by purchasing tickets to the Naples Winter Wine Festival. Ticket packages start at \$8,500 per couple, with a \$20,000 package that includes reserved seating for a party of four at the same vintner dinner and at the live auction. 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).

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