



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Julio Larraz named featured artist for 2013 Naples Winter Wine Festival

NAPLES, Fla. (Jan. 8, 2013) – Naples Winter Wine Festival is pleased to announce Julio Larraz as the 2013 featured artist. He joins an illustrious group of 16 celebrated chefs and 28 world-renowned vintners participating in this year's event, scheduled for Jan. 25-27 in Naples, Fla.

Cuban native Larraz is widely considered one of the most stimulating painters working today. His work is often a combination of reality and fantasy, and frequently tropical in atmosphere. Dramatic, brilliant lighting, vibrant, sensuous colors, and exaggeration in scale characterize his paintings.

"Larraz's subjects are often metaphors for such things as isolation, melancholy, the absurdity of power, or political intrigue. His paintings often incorporate Greek myths and legends, art history dialogues and contemporary history," said Tara K. Reddi, vice president of Marlborough Gallery, which represents the artist.

Larraz's 2011 oil on canvas, "Evening at Villa Anatolia," which will be auctioned at the festival, creates a strong narrative element that has latent implications going beyond what is represented. The painting depicts a boat anchored in the shadow of a towering cliff, at the edge of which sits a single, whitewashed structure typical of the Mediterranean. According to the art historian Edward Sullivan, "uncertainty and unease are key to the indistinct details of his subtle dramas."

The critic Christofer Finch commented, "A constant in Larraz's art is the always ambiguous interaction between man and nature ... Larraz has a virtuoso's ability to conjure up the physical world. Beyond this he takes a poet's delight in evoking imaginary universes, so that every image seems to take on a special significance in the context of the whole, as if it has been plucked from some epic that has yet to be written."

Larraz's first exhibition was in 1971 at the Pyramid Gallery in Washington, D.C. His paintings are found in public collections and museums both in the U. S. and internationally.

Born in 1944 in Havana, Larraz grew up in a home filled with cultural and intellectual stimulation. His parents ran La Discusion, one of the oldest newspapers in Havana. His father compiled one of the largest private libraries in the country – several hundred thousand volumes on painting, history, philosophy and literature. The family was forced to abandon the invaluable collection when they emigrated to Miami in 1961.

Julio Larraz is represented exclusively by Marlborough Gallery. For inquiries, please contact Tara K. Reddi at 212-541-4900 or treddi@marlboroughgallery.com.

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

The Naples Winter Wine Festival, the most successful charity wine auction in the world, is the primary source of funds for NCEF. Wine Spectator magazine has ranked NWWF as the nation's top charity wine auction since 2004.

Festival events, which are planned and executed by trustees, foundation staff and hundreds of volunteers, span three days. The festival begins with Meet the Kids Day, during which guests interact with children who have benefited from festival proceeds and witness charitable dollars at work. Guests enjoy wine tastings throughout the weekend. They also attend intimate dinners prepared by famous chefs at private homes of NCEF trustees and other supporters, with wines selected and poured by renowned vintners. 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 of 65 lots. 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 a two-couple ticket with reserved seating at the same vintner dinner. 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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