



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Critically acclaimed international and domestic vintners to pour into Naples, Fla. for the 2012 Naples Winter Wine Festival**

NAPLES, Fla. (Sept. 19, 2011) – Twenty-nine of the most revered names in the world of wine will arrive in Naples, Fla. Jan. 27-29 for the 2012 Naples Winter Wine Festival, “Believe in the Magic.” There are nine vintners making their festival debut this year including GAJA, one of Italy’s greatest Barbaresco and Barolo producers, Dana Estates from Rutherford, which received a perfect 100-point score from wine critic Robert Parker Jr. for its 2007 Lotus Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, and Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils from Burgundy, who according to the *New York Times* has experienced a “stunning revitalization” since it was purchased by Joseph Henriot in the mid-1990s. Also new to the festival is Korta Katarina from Croatia, owned by Naples Children & Education Foundation Trustees Penny and Lee Anderson, who will generously pour their wines as one of the vintners at the luncheon following the Meet the Kids Day event.

Vintners for the 2012 festival come from four continents and seven countries. Domestic producers will represent 59 percent of participating vintners, with an impressive 41 percent coming from as far as Australia, Argentina and Europe.

“We are thrilled to have good friends from California and Oregon who have been extremely generous over the years and are returning to participate,” said Bob Clifford, festival co-chair and trustee of the Naples Children & Education Foundation, which founded the festival in 2001. “We are also very excited to share the table with an extensive array of internationally renowned producers participating in this year’s event,” adds co-chair Joan Clifford. “Each year our call for NCEF’s children’s causes gets just a little bit louder, and our event gets just a little bit more magical in our efforts to help children in need,” she adds.

#### **Honored Vintner**

The 2012 Honored Vintner is HRH Prince Robert of Luxembourg, president of Château Haut-Brion and Château La Mission Haut-Brion. Prince Robert is the great-grandson of Clarence Dillon, who bought Château Haut-Brion in 1935. His family acquired Château La Mission Haut-Brion, in 1983. Château Haut-Brion is one of only five of several thousand makers of Bordeaux to produce Bordeaux wines classified as Premier Grand Cru. In 2009, Château La Mission Haut-Brion was considered as a potential First Growth by the Liv-ex Bordeaux Classification. Combined, the two châteaux have received 12 perfect 100-point scores from top critics. A generous supporter of NCEF, the prince participated in the 2004 and 2010 festivals. He is among 29 world-famous vintners who will personally pour their special wines during the festival.

#### **2012 Naples Winter Wine Festival Participating Vintners**

*\*connotes first-time participants*

Daphne and Bart Araujo

**Araujo Estate Wines, Calistoga, CA**

*paired with chef Charles Phan of The Slanted Door for "The Magic of Art & Wine" dinner*

Piero Incisa della Rochetta

**Bodega Chacra, Patagonia, Argentina**

*paired with chef Kelly Liken of Restaurant Kelly Liken for the "Abracadabra" dinner*

Greg Brewer

**Brewer-Clifton, Santa Rita Hills, CA\***

*paired with chef Bill Telepan of Telepan for the "Black Magic" dinner*

Bettina and Don Bryant, Jr.

**Bryant Family Vineyard, St. Helena, CA**

*paired with chef Michelle Bernstein of Michy's for the "Magical Mystical You" dinner*

Clovis Taittinger

**Champagne Taittinger, Reims, France**

*the official Champagne of the festival*

Jean-Philippe Delmas and HRH Prince Robert of Luxembourg

**Château Haut-Brion and Château La Mission Haut-Brion, Bordeaux, France**

*paired with chef Joachim Splichal of Patina Restaurant Group for the "Soirée Magique avec Vins et Nourriture" dinner*

Ann Colgin, NCEF Honorary Trustee

**Colgin Cellars, St. Helena, CA**

*paired with chef Wolfgang Puck of Wolfgang Puck Worldwide for the "Smoke and Mirrors" dinner*

Dimitri Augenblick

**Château Cos d'Estournel, Bordeaux, France**

*paired with chef Nick Anderer of Maialino for the "Presto Chango" dinner*

Young Hwa Chung and Hi Sang Lee

**Dana Estates, Rutherford, CA\***

*paired with chef Justin Bogle of GILT for the "Wizardry of Wine" dinner*

Shahpar and Darioush Khaledi

**Darioush, Napa, CA\***

*Meet the Kids Day vintner*

Philippe Prost

**Domaine Bouchard Père & Fils, Burgundy, France\***

*paired with chef Justin Bogle of GILT for the "Wizardry of Wine" dinner*

Grace and Ken Evenstad, NCEF Trustees

**Domaine Serene, Willamette Valley, OR**

*paired with chefs Rick Tramonto and John Folse of Restaurant R'evolution for the "Where the Magic Begins" dinner*

Peter Sisseck

**Dominio de Pingus, Ribera del Duero, Spain**

*paired with chef Bill Telepan of Telepan for the "Black Magic" dinner*

Kerry Murphy

**DuMOL, Russian River Valley, CA\***

*paired with chefs Kerry Simon and Nona Sivley of LA Market Restaurant for the "Some Enchanted Evening" dinner*

Giovanni Manetti

**Fontodi, Panzano in Chianti, Tuscany, Italy**

*paired with chef Sisha Ortúzar of Riverpark for the "Magical Mystery Tour" dinner*

Gaia Lorenza Gaja

**GAJA, Barbaresco, Italy\***

*paired with Chef de Cuisine Tony Mantuano of Spiaggia for the "Floating Fair" dinner*

Valerie Boyd and Jeff Gargiulo, NCEF Trustees

**Gargiulo Vineyards, Oakville, CA**

*paired with chef Dean Fearing of Fearing's Restaurant for the "Enchanting Illusions" dinner*

Ann and Dick Grace

**Grace Family Vineyards, St. Helena, CA**

*Meet the Kids Day vintner*

Jennifer and Don Hartford

**Hartford Family Winery, Sonoma Valley, CA\***

*paired with chef Joseph Lenn of The Barn at Blackberry Farm for the "Magical Moments" dinner*

Bobbie and Lou Kapcsándy

**Kapcsándy Family Winery, Napa Valley, CA**

*paired with chef Sisha Ortúzar of Riverpark for the "Magical Mystery Tour" dinner*

Penny and Lee Anderson, NCEF Trustees

**Korta Katarina, Orebic, Croatia\***

*Meet the Kids Day vintner*

Robin Lail

**Lail Vineyards, Rutherford, CA**

*paired with chefs Rick Tramonto and John Folse of Restaurant R'evolution for the "Where the Magic Begins" dinner*

Véronique Drouhin-Boss

**Maison Joseph Drouhin, Burgundy, France**

**Domaine Drouhin Oregon, Willamette Valley, OR**

*paired with chef Michelle Bernstein of Michy's for the "Magical Mystical You" dinner*

Annette and Doug Shafer

**Shafer Vineyards, Napa Valley, CA**

*paired with chefs Nancy Silverton and Matt Molina of Osteria Mozza for the "Magic of the Night" dinner*



Deirdre and Dick Shea

**Shea Wine Cellars, Yamhill-Carlton District, OR\***

*paired with chef Michael Schwartz of Michael's Genuine Food & Drink for the "Grand Illusion" dinner*

Shari and Garen Staglin

**Staglin Family Vineyards, Rutherford, CA**

*paired with chef Kelly Liken of Restaurant Kelly Liken for the "Abracadabra" dinner*

Michael Twelftree

**Two Hands Wines, Barossa Valley, Australia**

*paired with chef Joseph Lenn of The Barn at Blackberry Farm for the "Magical Moments" dinner*

Pablo Álvarez Mezquíriz

**Vega Sicilia, Valbuena de Duero, Spain**

*paired with chef Michael Schwartz of Michael's Genuine Food & Drink for the "Grand Illusion" dinner*

Barbara Banke

**Vérité and Stonestreet Wines, Sonoma Valley, CA**

*paired with chef Stephan Pyles of Stephan Pyles Restaurant for the "Liquid Alchemy" dinner*

#### **About Naples Children & Education Foundation**

The Naples Children & Education Foundation has raised more than \$94.5 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 125,000 children have had their lives improved. The foundation is governed by a nine-person board, representing 69 trustees, and currently supports 23 grantees and long-term strategic initiatives focused on children's early learning, medical/oral health, out-of-school programs, behavioral health and childhood hunger.

The Naples Winter Wine Festival, the most successful charity wine auction in the world, is the primary source of funds for the NCEF. *Wine Spectator* magazine has ranked NWWF as the nation's top charity wine auction since 2004. The auction raises an average of \$8 million over the course of four-to-five hours. The festival is planned and executed by the 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 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 with wines selected and poured by renowned vintners. A festival highlight takes place at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples Golf Resort – 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 reserved seating at the same vintner dinner for two couples. For a schedule of 2012 festivities and more information about the Naples Winter Wine Festival, visit [www.napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com) or call 888-837-4919.

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