

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### **Wine elite to gather for 2013 Naples Winter Wine Festival**

NAPLES, Fla. (Oct. 16, 2012) – A remarkable roster of 26 world-renowned, artisanal vintners from around the globe will participate in the Jan. 25 – 27 Naples Winter Wine Festival, which benefits underprivileged and at-risk children. Hailing from three continents and five countries, the esteemed vintners include two from France’s esteemed winemaking families that produce Château de Beaucastel and Domaine Ponsot. Torbreck’s David Powell, considered among the top vintners in Australia, is also participating, as are famed producers from Italy such as Piero Antinori of Marchesi Antinori.

U.S. producers comprise 63 percent of participants, with 16 illustrious California vintners, and from Oregon the much-admired Domaine Serene. Seven vintners are festival new comers including John Kolasa of Château Canon in France and Sebastiano Castiglioni of Querciabella in Italy.

“We are thrilled to welcome top vintners from major wine-producing countries around the globe and grateful for the outstanding and exciting auction lots they contribute. These vintners provide the best of their worlds to make life better for our children’s worlds,” said Ron Balser, vintner co-chair and trustee of Naples Children & Education Foundation, founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival.

According to Bob Dickinson, vintner co-chair and honorary NCEF trustee, the festival is like a culinary Olympics and other world-stage events. “The G20 brings together top leaders in the world. And that’s what Naples Winter Wine Festival offers in the wine and culinary world – top vintners worldwide and the crème de la crème of chefs. When they come to the festival, they know their global peer group will be here.”

In a festival first, fine port will be served throughout, including during 16 vintner dinners hosted in private homes. “We are so pleased that Dominic Symington of Symington Family Estates, who owns and manages the vineyards of some of the world’s greatest ports, will select a port for each dinner that is perfectly paired with the dessert being created by a celebrity chef,” said Bob Edwards, NCEF trustee and festival chair with his wife Terry.

#### **Honored Vintner**

NCEF trustees have named Barbara Banke of Vérité Winery in Healdsburg, Calif., the festival’s Honored Vintner. As head of Jackson Family Wines, Banke oversees more than 24, top-tier wineries, continuing the wine business she entered with her late husband, the renowned Jess Jackson. At Vérité, seven vintages of their signature blends – La Muse, La Joie and Le Désir – have received scores of 100 points from Robert Parker Jr.’s The Wine Advocate. “We are extremely pleased to honor Barbara,” said festival co-chair Terry Edwards. “Barbara’s support of the festival began in 2005 as a featured vintner, lot donor and bidder, and her contributions through the years have had an enormous impact on the festival’s success.”

#### **2013 Naples Winter Wine Festival Participating Vintners**

\*connotes first-time participants

Marilisa Allegrini

**Allegrini Estates, Italy**

paired with chef Andrea Ferraro, Bulgari Hotels & Resort of Milan, Italy, for “All that Glitters” dinner

John Kolasa

**Château Canon, France\***

paired with chef Christopher Lee, Huntington Social in Huntington, N.Y., for "Fly Me to the Moon" dinner

Marc Perrin

**Château de Beaucastel, France**

paired with chef Joseph Lenn, Blackberry Farm in Walland, Tenn., for "Midnight in Paris" dinner

Maryann Lendall and Cliff Lede

**Cliff Lede Vineyards, Yountville, Calif.**

paired with chef Richard Reddington, REDD in Napa Valley, for "The Stars Come Out Tonight" dinner

Ann Colgin and Joe Wender, NCEF Honorary Trustee

**Colgin Cellars, St. Helena, Calif.**

paired with chef Julian Serrano, Picasso at Bellagio in Las Vegas, for "Dancing with the Stars" dinner

Tim Mondavi

**Continuum, St. Helena, Calif.**

paired with chef Joseph Lenn, Blackberry Farm in Walland, Tenn., for "Midnight in Paris" dinner

Shahpar and Darioush Khaledi

**Darioush, Napa, Calif.**

paired with chef Lee Hefter, Spago in Beverly Hills, for "It's Written in the Stars" dinner

Laurent Ponsot

**Domaine Ponsot, France**

paired with chef Kerry Heffernan in N.Y., for "Stars in a Burgundy Sky" dinner

Grace and Ken Evenstad, NCEF trustees

**Domaine Serene, Dayton, Ore.**

paired with chef Vitaly Paley, Paley's Place in Portland, Ore., for "Little Stars and Big Hearts" dinner

Valerie Boyd and Jeff Gargiulo, NCEF trustees

**Gargiulo Vineyards, Oakville, Calif.**

paired with chef Christopher Lee, Huntington Social in Huntington, N.Y., for "Fly Me to the Moon" dinner

Ann and Dick Grace

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

Meet the Kids Day vintner

Salvatore Ferragamo

**Il Borro, Italy**

paired with chef Tony Mantuano, Spiaggia in Chicago, for "Star Trek" dinner

Roberta and Lou Kapcsándy Sr.

**Kapcsándy Family Winery, Yountville, Calif.**

paired with chef Barbara Lynch, Menton in Boston, for "Starry, Starry Night" dinner

Bill Price

**Kistler Vineyards, Sebastopol, Calif. \***

paired with chef Lee Hefter, Spago in Beverly Hills, for "It's Written in the Stars" dinner



Piero Antinori

**Marchesi Antinori, Italy**

paired with chef Kelly Liken, Restaurant Kelly Liken in Vail, Colo., for "Shooting Stars" dinner

Dana Johnson

**OVID Winery, St. Helena, Calif.\***

paired with chef Carmen González, Carmen at the Danforth in Portland, Maine, for "Earth, Stars, Sea and Sky" dinner

Cleo Pahlmeyer

**Pahlmeyer, St. Helena, Calif.\***

paired with chef Kerry Heffernan in N.Y., for "Stars in a Burgundy Sky" dinner

Paul Hobbs

**Paul Hobbs Wines, Sebastopol, Calif.**

paired with chef Perry Hoffman, étoile Restaurant in Napa Valley, for "Shoot for the Stars" dinner

Sebastiano Castiglioni

**Querciabella, Italy\***

paired with chef Barbara Lynch, Menton in Boston, for "Starry, Starry Night" dinner

Merle and Peter Mullin

**Ram's Gate Winery, Sonoma, Calif.\***

Meet the Kids Day vintner

Barbara and John Shafer

**Shafer Vineyards, Napa Valley, Calif.**

paired with chef Michael Anthony, Gramercy Tavern in N.Y., for the "Starlight Symphony" dinner

Kary and David Duncan

**Silver Oak, Oakville, Calif.**

paired with chef Michael Tusk, Quince in San Francisco, for the "Star Light ... Star Bright" dinner

Shari and Garen Staglin

**Staglin Family Vineyard, Rutherford, Calif.**

paired with chef Andrea Ferraro, Bulgari Hotels & Resorts in Milan, Italy, for "All That Glitters" dinner

Dominic Symington

**Symington Family Estates, Portugal\***

the official port of the festival

David Powell

**Torbreck, Australia**

paired with chef Richard Reddington, REDD in Napa Valley, for "The Stars Come Out Tonight" dinner

Barbara Banke, Honored Vintner

**Vérité Winery, Healdsburg, Calif.**

paired with chef Marco Canora, Hearth in N.Y., for "A Star is Born" dinner

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 NCEF investments, more than 150,000 children have had their lives improved. The foundation is governed by trustees, and currently supports 24 grantees as well as 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 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, visit [www.napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com) or call 888-837-4919.

-30-

Contact:

Andrea Steffy, Gravina, Smith, Matte & Arnold Marketing and Public Relations, 239-275-5758,  
[andrea@gsma.pro](mailto:andrea@gsma.pro)





# WHEN STARS ALIGN

Naples Winter Wine Festival **2013**



