



NAPLES CHILDREN
NCEF
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FOUNDATION

THE 2018 NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL REACHES FAR BEYOND THE TENT
*Superstar chefs, world-renowned vintners and Master Sommeliers will gather in Naples, Florida,
for the sold-out January Festival*

January 23, 2018 (NAPLES, FL) - With only a few weeks until the anticipated event, plans are now complete for the 2018 Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF), the most successful international charity wine auction in the world. Teams of top vintners and Michelin-starred chefs have wrapped up their food and wine pairings for each of the Festival's Vintner Dinners, and an incredible collection of more than 60 one-of-a-kind auction lots have been finalized for bidding under the auction tent during the Festival weekend—January 26-28.

“Year after year, the Naples Winter Wine Festival makes its mark as one of the top charitable events in the world,” said Kathy Mezzalingua, 2018 Festival Co-Chair. “We have been fortunate to bring in a stellar lineup of vintners, chefs, and Master Sommeliers from around the world. With the generous auction lots contributed by our partners and donors, we are hoping that the sold-out 2018 event will be a banner year for NWWF. The destruction from Hurricane Irma created unprecedented need for the children in our struggling communities, making the success of the 2018 Naples Winter Wine Festival especially critical this year.”

Auction lot items awaiting the highest bidders on Saturday, January 27 will include some of the most exclusive experiences in the realms of food, wine, and travel. Bidders can satisfy their wanderlust with an 18-night all-inclusive VIP private jet trip around the world, starting in Hong Kong, then going to Malaysia, Reunion Island, South Africa, Cyprus, and Spain. Other exclusive opportunities await for wine connoisseurs with a Magnum, Double Magnum, and 6 Liter (Imperial) of the 100-point Robert Parker, Jr. rated 2013 Cliff Lede Vineyards Poetry Cabernet Sauvignon, followed by a 10-night stay in a private apartment in Paris, including private tours of The Louvre, Versailles, dinner at Alain Ducasse's Le Jules Verne restaurant in the Eiffel Tower and access to the Christian Dior Couture Runway Show. Automotive enthusiasts will have a chance to take home the first 8th Generation Rolls-Royce standard wheelbase Phantom delivered globally, be the first in the U.S. to own the 2019 Bentley Continental GT, or a McLaren 720S custom designed for the Festival. For a full descriptions of this year's auction lot items, please visit <https://www.napleswinefestival.com/auction-lots/> and real-time auction updates will be posted on the NCEF Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NCEFNWWF>.

While the energetic auction serves as the fundraiser's centerpiece, the event reaches well beyond the tent. On the evening of Friday, January 26, Michelin-starred chefs, world-renowned vintners, and Master Sommeliers from across the globe will come together for another year of once-in-a-lifetime meals and wine pairings, for guests at the Festival's Vintner Dinners. Guests

will savor creations from the culinary talents of 18 all-star chefs, all designed to pair perfectly with a selection of the attending vintners' prized wines.

Patrons of the Naples Winter Wine Festival will also be invited to experience the Naples Children & Education Foundation's (NCEF) community impact at Friday morning's Meet the Kids Day. This crowd favorite event will feature meet-and-greets and personal stories from children whose lives have been personally improved through the grants and strategic initiatives from the NCEF. Attendees will see and hear, first-hand, how their contributions are used to better the lives of these underprivileged and at-risk local children.

Including last year's \$15 million-plus, the Naples Winter Wine Festival has generated more than \$161 million, which has provided more than 200,000 impoverished children with the services and resources they need to excel in school and beyond.

For those who aren't able to participate in the sold-out live auction, an online auction is open from 12:01am (EST) on Monday, January 15 and closes at 11:59pm (EST) on Wednesday, January 31, and features rare bottles of wine, exclusive visits to boutique wineries, dining with several 2018 NWWF celebrity chefs, tickets to major sporting events, unique culinary experiences and much more. A full roster and additional details are available at www.nwwfonlineauction.com.

To inquire about the Festival, please contact Barrett Farmer at barrett@napleswinefestival.com or 239-514-2239.

For all press-related inquiries, please contact naples@sunshinesachs.com or 212-691-2800.

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ABOUT NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL

The Naples Winter Wine Festival, one of the world's most prestigious charity wine auctions, offers a weekend of unforgettable memories. Guests enjoy world-class wines and food during intimate dinners in private homes, and are invited to bid on once-in-a-lifetime travel and wine experiences during an electrifying live auction. Since its inaugural event in 2001, the NWWF has raised more than \$161 million, making a profound difference in the lives of thousands of children.

ABOUT NAPLES CHILDREN & EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Naples Children & Education Foundation, the founding organization of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, is improving the educational, emotional, and health outcomes of underprivileged and at-risk children. Through its annual grants and strategic initiatives, NCEF has impacted over 40 of the most effective nonprofits in the community, providing more than 200,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. NCEF's unique approach, which emphasizes collaboration between organizations and bridges public and private resources, has become a blueprint for how to transform a community, one issue at a time.