



AFTER RAISING MORE THAN \$15 MILLION AT SATURDAY'S LIVE AUCTION, THE 2018 NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL RAISES ADDITIONAL \$170,275 THROUGH ONLINE AUCTION

February 1, 2018 (NAPLES, FL) – The 2018 Naples Winter Wine Festival closed its fourth annual Online Auction today, raising an additional \$170,275 and closing another successful year for the Festival. Additional Fund a Need donations also accumulated over the weekend, bringing the initiative funds to \$2.4 million, and the Festival's live auction total to \$15.26 million.

The Online Auction saw participation from near and far: bids came in from across the United States, beyond Florida—giving bidders the opportunity to choose from one-of-a-kind lots including: world-class bottles of wine, amazing winery and rock star experiences, dinners by James Beard Award-winning chefs, sporting events, the best of Naples cuisines, Southwest Florida excursions and much more.

The top Online Auction bid of **\$12,000** featured a **luncheon at Gargiulo Vineyards for ten people** by Valerie Boyd & Jeff Gargiulo, Founding Trustees of the Naples Winter Wine Festival. The family-style picnic at Gargiulo Vineyards in Napa Valley, one of the most highly regarded Cabernet Sauvignon producers in Napa Valley, will be set amid a gorgeous Oakville setting and will feature a feast paired with a number of their favorite Gargiulo Vineyards vintages.

Additional Online Auction highlights include:

- **\$11,000 for a five-night voyage aboard *The Grand Victoria* through Burgundy** - The winning couple will enjoy an all-inclusive luxury trip along the beautiful rivers and canals of Burgundy aboard *The Grand Victoria*, a luxury hotel yacht, with six crew members. They will explore boutique shops and bustling local markets, walk the ramparts of historic châteaux, and tour the legendary Burgundian vineyards and wineries dotting the countryside while dining on French wine-paired meals throughout the trip.
- **\$10,000 for an evening with Cliff Williams of AC/DC** - In addition to an autographed guitar from the rock legend himself, the winner will have a special dinner with Georganne & Cliff Williams and Grace & Ken Evenstad at Sea Salt Naples, all paired with wines provided by Domaine Serene.
- **\$6,000 for an extravagant dinner at D'Amico Naples Family of Restaurants** - The winner and a group of nine guests will experience a luxurious night out on the town. The evening will begin at The Continental on Third Street South for a personal craft cocktail experience. After cocktails, a limo will provide transport to Café Lurcat where guests will enjoy appetizers paired with select wines, followed by a trip to Campiello for an exquisite entrée and wine pairing before arriving at its final destination, The Continental, for a luscious dessert or apéritif with Amaro, along with music and dancing.
- **\$4,500 for a rare selection of Napa Valley Reserve wines** - The winning bidder will enjoy exceptional wines from Napa Valley Reserve, a private wine club located on 80 acres in St. Helena, California. The Napa Valley Reserve, was conceived and founded by the legendary Bill Harlan of Harlan Estate, BOND, Promontory and Meadowood

resort. The lot consists of 10 wines not available to the public (and are therefore not scored by wine critics) -- one 1.5 Liter 2009 Napa Valley Reserve Red, three 750ml 1998 Napa Valley Reserve Red, three 750ml 2003 Napa Valley Reserve Red, and three 750ml 2004 Napa Valley Reserve Red.

- **\$3,400 for a multi-course dinner with wine pairings at Barbatella** - The winner and 19 friends will enjoy a family-style dinner at Barbatella in Old Naples for some of Naples' best Italian rustic cooking featuring fresh Mediterranean ingredients. Decorated with brick floors, wood accents, a pizza oven and custom gelato counter, these lucky winners will enjoy an ambience as enjoyable as the cuisine.
- **\$2,000 for a true Knoxville, TN, experience at Joseph Lenn's J.C. Holdway** - Two couples will experience a five-course tasting menu by James Beard award-winning chef Joseph Lenn at his new restaurant J.C. Holdway, paired with Domaine de la Vieille Julienne wines from boutique French wine importer, Frederick Corriher. To explore the town, they will be staying at The Oliver Hotel, Knoxville's only boutique hotel, in the heart of downtown Knoxville.

The Online Auction was made possible with the incredible support of many local organizations, including 11 restaurants and 30 Naples-based businesses that donated an array of fine dining experiences, shopping excursions, luxury staycations and more. Funds raised from the auction help support the work of the Naples Children & Education Foundation, which will award this year's grants to local organizations serving Collier County children in need on March 19, 2018.

"We want to thank everyone who attended and participated in this year's Naples Winter Wine Festival," said Maria Jimenez-Lara, NCEF CEO. "With your help and support, we were able to raise over \$15 million and we're excited to continue helping our community rebuild after Irma and further our mission to help at-risk, underprivileged children in Collier County."

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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 food and wine 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 \$176 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.