



Naples Winter Wine Festival Ranks #1 Again on *Wine Spectator's* List of Top Charity Wine Auctions

Top spot is awarded to Naples Winter Wine Festival for the 12th time since its inception in 2001

Naples, FL – April 16, 2018 – The Naples Winter Wine Festival has once again topped *Wine Spectator* Magazine's list of the highest-earning charity wine auctions in the country, marking the 12th time the Festival has earned this illustrious title since its inception in 2001. This honor goes to the 2017 Festival, which raised nearly \$13.5 million under the live auction tent (excluding Fund a Need, which garnered \$1.6 million live donations for the NCEF's Children's Healthcare Initiative "A Bright, Sunshiny Future" focusing on children's oral health, mental health, primary and vision care.)

"We are extremely honored to have been selected as the top charity wine auction in the country by *Wine Spectator*," said 2017 Co-Chair Bill Cary. "Each year, we strive to bring Festival guests the best in food, wine and lifestyle, but at the end of the day, we're all here for the kids. We'd like to thank both our local community as well as our national and international supporters for their continued dedication to our cause of providing the underprivileged, at-risk youths in Collier County the necessary care they need to lead a better, brighter future."

Top lots at the 2017 Naples Winter Wine Festival included a winning bid of \$480,000 for the 2017 McLaren 570 GT, the most luxurious and refined McLaren ever made. Two separate bidders enjoyed a week-long cruise to either the Bahamas or the Caribbean aboard a 126-foot Feadship yacht formerly belonging to Malcolm Forbes, all for a total of \$600,000. A collection of 100-point wines from the private cellars of generous NWWF donors for a total of 106+ bottles, including 13 Magnums, along with a stunning custom-built wine cabinet with two Sub-Zero wine coolers crafted by Thomas Riley Artisans' Guild received a final bid of \$210,000. Additionally, \$450,000 was raised during the live auction for 1 Balthazar etched with NWWF logo, 1 Imperial and 1 Double Magnum of 2012 Silver Oak Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon signed by David Duncan. The winning bid also received a live performance by country music legend Darius Rucker, a private dinner for 24 people prepared by Silver Oak chef Dominic Orsini and a custom guitar signed by Darius Rucker and David Duncan of Silver Oak.

One hundred percent of the funds raised under the tent goes directly to providing underserved and at-risk children in Collier County with critical health and education services.

Since 2001, the Festival has raised more than \$176 million for its founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), which has awarded grants to more than 45 non-profit organizations that have impacted the lives of over 200,000 children.

###

ABOUT THE 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.

Find our latest updates on social media – NWWF and NCEF are on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @NCEF_NWWF.