



## **2019 NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES OPENING OF ONLINE AUCTION**

*Unrivaled travel, wine and culinary experiences will be available starting January 20 to bidders outside of the NWWF live auction*

January 16, 2019 (NAPLES, FL) - Leading up to the highly anticipated January event, the Naples Winter Wine Festival has announced the opening of its 2019 Online Auction, which touts exciting and unique experiences in travel, culinary, wine and more, both in Naples and beyond, all available to bidders far and wide. Since its launch in 2015, the NWWF Online Auction has provided additional participation opportunities to the local community, as well as supporters nationwide, who may not be able to attend the live auction. Since its inception, the Online Auction has raised over \$700,000 to benefit disadvantaged and at-risk children of Collier County.

“The NWWF Online Auction has historically included an impressive collection of auction lots that are a testament to the best Naples has to offer. This year, we are truly blown away by the extraordinary offerings and experiences available to our bidders which highlight the best in food, wine and travel, and includes incredibly rare opportunities to spend time with the most renowned vintners in the country.” said Valerie Boyd. “We are thankful to our partners for their outstanding contributions and are elated to open up the Online Auction to our supporters and bidders outside of the traditional auction tent – their support truly makes a difference for the underprivileged children in our community.”

Online bidders have the chance to win a variety of one-of-a-kind items and experiences including rare bottles of wine, exclusive winery tours, unique culinary experiences and more. Auction lot highlights include:

- **An Intimate Concert & Dinner Party** - The winning bidder will receive an intimate 12 person dinner prepared by chef Sebastian Mazzotta at their Naples home, paired with wine selections curated by renowned expert Bruce Nichols of The Wine Store and cocktails crafted by Barry Larkin of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Social. Dinner guests will be serenaded throughout the evening with a singer-songwriter concert from Nashville’s own Anna Wilson and Monty Powell, known for writing hit songs for country stars including Keith Urban.
- **Useppa Island on the Sea Fox** - Two couples will cruise to Florida’s Useppa Island with Karen and Dale Medford aboard their 45-foot power vessel, *Sea Fox*, on March 30, 2019. Each couple will stay one night in a Suite at the historic Collier Inn and will join Karen and Dale Medford for a luxurious dinner.

- **Private Party on the *Naples Princess*** - This winner of this lot will win the chance to host a grand party for up to 150 guests aboard the *Naples Princess* yacht during a two-hour private charter equipped with a premium open bar and delicious food.
- **Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar Dinner & James Otto Concert** - The winner will enjoy a three-course dinner at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar in Naples, Florida for up to 20 people, with a private concert during the meal from country music star James Otto. Wine pairings throughout the evening will include Billecart Champagne, Chateau Montelena Chardonnay and Chappellet Cabernet Sauvignon.
- **Dinner Party at a Private Home on Keewaydin Island** - The winning bidder will be transported via boat to Keewaydin Island, off the coast of Southwest Florida, for a ten person private home dinner with exceptional wines provided by Tony's Off Third and Sukie's Wine Shop. Jimmy Buffet fans will enjoy entertainment from look-alike performer Randy Bozeman, and can sing to classics throughout the evening.
- **Six bottles of 2008 Hundred Acre** - The winning bidder will receive six 750ml bottles of the highly coveted 2008 Hundred Acre Cabernet Sauvignon.
- **Sheriff for a Day with the Collier County Sheriff's Office** - The Collier County Sheriff's Office will play host to a lucky bidder for a day-long experience and tour. The experience will include a tour of the Agency's outdoor gun range and specialized equipment as well as a meet-and-greet with CCSO's Sheriff Kevin Rambosk. The package also includes a hands-on interactive afternoon with CCSO's Special Response Bureau at the Special Operations Center Demonstrations and presentations from SWAT, K9, the Bomb Unit, the Motor Unit and aviation hangar.
- **A VIP Experience at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort** - One couple will spend two nights in a Club Level Suite at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort in Naples, Florida and can ease all worries away with a \$500 Spa credit at The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Naples. The stay will also include lunch at an on-property restaurant of the couple's choosing and dinner at The Grill Room with a bottle of wine hand selected by The Ritz-Carlton sommelier. The winning bidder will also enjoy complimentary beach chairs and an umbrella throughout their stay and one day with a complimentary premium poolside cabana experience.
- **Opus One Twilight Hour Tour and Tasting** - The winner of this lot will receive a 1.5 Liter bottle of Opus One along with a twilight hour tour and tasting at Opus One for the winner and five of his/her friends.
- **All Inclusive Villa in the Riviera Maya** - Two couples will spend four nights in a two-bedroom villa with a private pool at the all-inclusive Royal Resorts Grand Residences Riviera Cancún. This luxurious package includes a round of golf for both couples, a private tequila tasting and private massages for each person.

- **Fund a Need: NCEF's Beautiful Minds Initiative** - Citing the urgent need for expanded access to mental and behavioral health care for at-risk children in the community, the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF) announced that it will target Children's Mental Health for its annual Fund a Need initiative at the 2019 Naples Winter Wine Festival. NCEF's "Beautiful Minds" initiative aims to fundamentally transform and expand mental health care for at-risk Collier County children through an innovative and groundbreaking coalition of healthcare providers, community mental health professionals, social services and the public school system.

A full roster and additional details on these exciting online auction lot items are available at [www.nwwfonlineauction.com](http://www.nwwfonlineauction.com). The auction is open January 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00am until January 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:00pm (EST).

Ticket packages to the Naples Winter Wine Festival, taking place from January 25-27, 2019 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, Florida, are still available in limited quantities. Ticket packages start at \$12,500 per couple through the Festival's \$30,000 package for four guests – all packages include reserved seating at a Vintner Dinner and under the Festival tent. To inquire about tickets to the Festival, please contact Barrett Farmer at [barrett@napleswinefestival.com](mailto:barrett@napleswinefestival.com) or 239-514-2239.

For all press-related inquiries, please contact [naples@sunshinesachs.com](mailto: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 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 hundreds 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 45 of the most effective nonprofits in the community, providing 275,000 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.

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