



Sandi Moran and Jeannelle Brady prepare for the big night as they co-host a vintner dinner for the 2019 Naples Winter Wine Festival.

Big Plans for the Biggest Fundraiser

WINTER WINE FESTIVAL DINNER HOSTS SANDI MORAN AND JEANNELLE BRADY TO BRING GUESTS TO "A WHOLE NEW WORLD"

Surrounded by colorful paper lanterns and ornate animal figurines, Sandi Moran and Jeannelle Brady radiate excitement for the upcoming vintner dinner they are planning for the 2019 Naples Winter Wine Festival.

The two women host the dinner with their husbands, Brian Brady and Tom Moran. The Bradys also co-chair the Naples Winter Wine Festival alongside fellow trustee couple Linda and Tom Koehn.

The Morans will open their home to "A Whole New World," to coincide with the festival's overall theme of "Joy to the World," decked out with colorful Moroccan and Arabian inspired décor, entertainers and music with the help of the Bradys.

Known for their extravagant themed dinners, Brady and Moran have co-hosted together multiple times since meeting in 2011.

They recall their meeting with wide smiles and nostalgic laughter.

"She looked like a kindred spirit and I knew we would be good friends," Brady said.

Since then, they have come up with creative, interactive themes, including "Mission Possible," with invitations that simulated an assignment for a secret mission. Another theme was "Vintage Traveler," featuring a train conductor and rows of TVs playing continuous footage of rolling landscape to give guests a train-ride experience. Another theme was "Go for the Gold," where guests dressed in gold attire.

"Our mission is to bring joy to the children," Brady said of their involvement in Naples Children & Education Foundation's renowned weekend fundraiser, the Naples Winter Wine Festival.

As a kickoff to one of the largest fundraisers in Southwest Florida, the Brady-Moran vintner dinner will have guests stepping into their 'world' — a bright, larger-than-life elaborate, decorative setting as if stepping magically onto the Arabian Peninsula, fit with majestic music and jaw-dropping entertainment, of which Brady hoped to keep some secrets until the last minute.

"A Whole New World" is one of numerous private vintner dinner parties occurring in homes around town on Friday, January 25 as hosts inspire guests to come together for the health of the youngest members of the community.

These vintner dinners serve as a pre-party for the auction on Saturday at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples. There are other ways to participate for almost everyone who desires to get involved, including participating in the online auction.

"You can donate your treasures, your talent or your time," said Lisa Juliano, director of events and communication at NCEF.

For nearly two decades, NCEF has brought philanthropic leaders together to indulge in world-class wine and food, while raising extraordinary funds for youth in Collier County. Though more people are familiar with the renowned Naples Winter

Wine Festival that lasts one weekend, NCEF works throughout the year, collaborating with numerous organizations to benefit children.

The festival started in 2001, earning nearly \$3 million, and grows continually, leading to \$176 million raised thus far. This year, the festival is targeting children's behavioral and mental health through its Fund a Need initiative, "Beautiful Minds."

"I think it's just crucial that we pick up early on this," Brady said of mental health.

Moran recognized that some attendees are as interested in the atmosphere, lavish food and exquisite wine, as well as the social and philanthropic aspects of the weekend. Whatever the draw, each festival goer is contributing to the cause in a big way, she said.

Wine enthusiasts and connoisseurs have the rarest of opportunities right here in Naples. Moran and Brady's dinner, for example, will feature world-renowned vintners Rotem and Mounir Saouma, of Lucien Le Moine in Beaune France, and David Duncan of Ovid in St. Helena, California, and Chef Angelo Auriana of Officine Brera in Los Angeles.

Moran revels in the planning process, be it shopping for decorations online or taking a

trip to her garage where she stores past party supplies, including countless wine glasses, linens, and 100 gold Chiavari chairs. She enjoys creating elaborate décor to fit the theme and sharing enthusiasm for the events and for the cause.

"People realize that when they're raising their paddle for those auction lots that they are being incredibly generous," Moran said.

Throughout their time as trustees for the festival, the two have connected with the benefitting charities and their fellow trustees.

"We become family," Moran said. "Some of our best friends are the fellow trustees."

The trustees of the festival work together with NCEF staff throughout the year to bring all of the events to life, from pre-festival events, like the Vintage Cellar on Thursday, Jan. 24, to the post-festival Wine Down on Saturday evening, Jan. 25 and Celebration Brunch on Sunday morning, Jan. 26.

There are 136 trustees, making up a very engaged group, said Juliano, adding that one doesn't need to be a trustee, or even a ticketholder to support the cause.

In addition to auctions under the festival tent, and the online auction lot, there is an option to donate to this year's Fund a Need

— the Beautiful Minds initiative, which helps make mental and behavioral health care more accessible to at-risk youth.

"The Naples Winter Wine Festival is our way of raising money to help the most fragile children," said Maria Jimenez-Lara, CEO of NCEF. "Big efforts need to be funded in a big way," said Jimenez-Lara. 🍷

RAISE YOUR PADDLE!

The 2019 Naples Winter Wine Festival boasts lavish and exclusive auction lots, both under the tent for festival-goers and online for those who wish to help from home. Here are some of the top auction items:

:: Ultimate Luxury in France: Explore Paris with Christian Louboutin and be Pampered in Bordeaux

Two couples will win an exclusive trip to France, including a stay at the Charteuse, then spend time with renowned designer Christian Louboutin — leading up to not only attending his Paris Christian Louboutin Fashion Show, but also taking home a special limited-edition Bespoke handbag.

:: The Best of New York: Exclusive Tony® Awards Access and Stunning Saranac Lake

The winner and one guest will experience a 7-night stay in New York, both in the city and upstate to attend the 2019 Tony Awards, along with two tickets to "Hamilton" on Broadway. They will also receive \$25,000 credit for a custom-designed piece of Bayco jewelry.

:: Italy's Finest Wining and Dining Experience from Parma to Tuscany

One couple will indulge in a 9-night Italian experience with jeweler Elisa Piccini and Michelin-starred chef Peter Brunel. In addition to a private tour and tasting at Le Macchiole with Cinzia Merli, the guest will take home both wine from the tour and custom jewelry from Fratelli Piccini.

To participate in the online auction visit NWWFOnlineAuction.com. For other ways to participate, visit NaplesWineFestival.com.

