



NAPLES CHILDREN  
**NCEF**  
& EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

## **2020 NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THREE DAYS OF EXTRAORDINARY FOOD AND WINE EXPERIENCES**

*The iconic annual wine festival will bring together famous chefs, celebrated vintners, and skilled Master Sommeliers as well as an opportunity for guests to bid on once-in-a-lifetime auction lots*

**December 10, 2019 (NAPLES, FL)** – Excitement is growing for the 2020 Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF) themed “Celebrate: 20 Years of Cheers!” in honor of the Festival’s 20th Anniversary taking place from January 24 - 26, 2020 at The Ritz Carlton Golf Resort, Naples, Florida. The highly anticipated celebration will feature some of the world’s most renowned vintners, chefs, and Master Sommeliers for three days of unique auction lots, rare wines, and phenomenal culinary experiences.

Since its inception in 2001, the Naples Winter Wine Festival has raised over \$191 million over the last 20 years, making it the most successful charity wine auction in the world. Due to the success in raising funds during the Festival’s Live Auction, the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF) has helped provide 275,000 underprivileged and at-risk children with the services and resources they need to thrive in school and beyond.

Sarah Grueneberg of Monteverde Restaurant & Pastificio will be the Festival’s 2020 Chef de Cuisine alongside 2020 Honored Vintner Saskia de Rothschild of Domaines Barons de Rothschild Lafite. Both women will lead an incredible roster of celebrity chefs and vintners. Chefs include Ashley Christensen, Lee Hefter, Thomas Keller, Emeril Lagasse, Donald Link, Tony Mantuano, Nancy Oakes, Charlie Palmer, and more. They will be joined by world-renowned vintners Barbara Banke, Ann Colgin, David Duncan, Erwan Faiveley, Olivier Krug, Jean-Nicolas Méo, Laurent Ponsot, Alfred Tesseron, and more.

“We’re looking forward to celebrating the incredible impact the Festival has had on Collier County over the past 20 years,” said Shirley Welsh, 2020 Festival Co-Chair. “And, thanks to the unwavering support from our Trustees, patrons, partners and donors, we’re expecting another unforgettable weekend that is sure to make a lasting difference on the community.”

The Festival will kick off on Thursday, January 23rd with a special Pre-Festival Wine Tasting & Luncheon at Bleu Provence headlined by de Rothschild. During the event, guests will have a chance to taste some of the rarest wines from both the Left and Right Bank of France while learning about the history of Domaines Barons de Rothschild from de Rothschild herself. The tasting will also feature renowned guest moderator, Antonio Galloni of *Vinous*.

On Friday, January 24, guests will have the opportunity to see first-hand the community impact that NCEF has at Meet the Kids Day. This celebration will include meet-and-greets with children who have benefited from NCEF’s grants and strategic initiatives. Inspiring students will also share their stories so attendees can discover how monumental their contributions have been in improving the lives of at-risk children within Collier County. Following the wonderful event, five

acclaimed vintners will be pouring some of their most acclaimed wines to give guests a taste of what to expect throughout the Festival.

On Friday night, the Festival's generous Trustees will host dinners in their homes and private settings throughout Naples at the highly anticipated Vintner Dinners. Guests will enjoy curated menus from the 2020 NWWF participating chefs, all of which are perfectly paired with vintage wines from the 2020 NWWF vintners and poured by the talented 2020 Master Sommeliers.

The Festival's main event, the exciting Live Auction, will begin at 11:00am on Saturday, January 25. Guests will be honored and celebrated as they bid on one-of-a-kind experiences that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Everything from rare wines to amazing travel packages and tickets to some of the most sought-after events of the year will be up for bid.

In addition to the Live Auction, bidders are invited to partake in the online auction with the chance to take home world-class wines and exclusive items including amazing winery visits, Naples dining and staycations, and dinners prepared by James Beard chefs. Bidding opens on Monday, January 20 at 8:00am and closes on Tuesday, January 28 at 5:00pm at [nwwfonlineauction.com](http://nwwfonlineauction.com).

For all press-related inquiries, please contact [naples@sunshinesachs.com](mailto:naples@sunshinesachs.com) or 212-691-2800.

For more information on the 2020 NWWF and related announcements, please visit [www.napleswinefestival.com](http://www.napleswinefestival.com)

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#### **ABOUT THE 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.

#### **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 \$191 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](https://www.instagram.com/NCEF_NWWF).