



NAPLES CHILDREN  
**NCEF**  
& EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

## **2020 NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES OPENING OF ONLINE AUCTION**

*Unrivaled travel, wine and culinary experiences are now available to bidders outside of the NWWF live auction*

January 21, 2020 (NAPLES, FL) - Ahead of the highly anticipated 20th Anniversary of the Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF), the Festival has announced the opening of its 2020 online auction. Available now, the items up for bid include remarkable experiences in travel, food and wine in Naples, Florida and around the world.

Since its launch in 2015, the NWWF online auction has provided additional participation opportunities to the local community, as well as bidders and supporters nationwide, who may not be able to attend the live auction during the Festival. Since its inception, the online auction has raised over \$1 million to benefit underprivileged at-risk children of Collier County.

“Thanks to our generous partners, donors and sponsors, we’re excited to unveil a superb collection of lots up for bid for the 2020 online auction,” said Valerie Boyd. “The online auction gives more people the chance to partake in a historic event and contribute towards a great cause – it’s heartwarming to see the overwhelming support from those who cannot be there in person. And, thanks to the incredible generosity from our donors and bidders that support us through the online auction, NCEF is able to ensure that every single dollar raised under the auction tent is able to go directly to the children in need right here in our community.”

Online bidders have the chance to win a myriad of spectacular items, ranging from rare wines and private concerts to extravagant trips and unique culinary experiences. Auction lot highlights include:

- **Buy a Spot on Board the *Naples Princess* for a Sunset Cruise Party** - For \$300, you can purchase a seat on this cruise and experience an exclusive, floating celebration aboard the *Naples Princess*, savoring fine wine and gourmet hors d’oeuvres. You’ll watch dolphins cavort in the sea and glimpse the amazing homes of Port Royal as the sun sets into the Gulf of Mexico. The crew is focused on environmental responsibility, safe cruising, and guest comfort while delivering First Class service.
- **A Live Arts Naples Experience for 12 people** - The winning bidder of this lot will be able to experience a unique version of performance art, headlined by famed country artist Billy Dean and top local musical talent. The experience will be amplified by award-winning Naples painter Juan Diaz, who will feed off the evening’s energy to create a painting on the spot.
- **Host a Miniature Golf Day for 30 People** - Spend a fun day at the Coral Cay, 18-hole Miniature Golf course in a tropical setting complete with bridges, caves, hills and waterfalls. The winning bidder can bring up to 30 people for a day of unlimited play. The

attendees will enjoy the on-site food truck by The Bevy, beer and wine to indulge their inner child and work on their short game.

- **Private Dinner and Concert on Keewaydin Island** - There are only 15 private homes on Keewaydin, and the winner will bring a party of 10 to dine in one of them, the Off the Hook Hideaway. After the boat ride to the island, guests will enjoy their meal and be serenaded by James Otto, Nashville artist and member of the MuzikMafia dedicated to “country music without prejudice.” He is best known for his number one hit “Just Got Started Lovin’ You.” Between Otto’s soulful songs and the resonating silence of Keewaydin, it will be an unforgettable evening.
- **A Collection of Lokoya Cabernet Sauvignon Wines** - This lot includes 12 bottles of wine from some of the best that Jackson Family Wines has to offer, donated from the private cellars of Judith A. Liegeois & John Scot Mueller. The bottles are mature and ready to drink, having been stored under pristine conditions. It is a rare opportunity to sample bottles that are at their peak of quality, especially when they represent some of the top Cabernet Sauvignon that California provides.
- **Private Tour and Tasting at the Opus One Winery** - A party of six will have a private tour and tasting at the highly celebrated Opus One winery in the Oakville District of Napa. Opus One was established through a collaboration between Robert Mondavi and Baron Philippe de Rothschild to create some of the most sought-after wines in the New World. After visiting the European-style barrel room and the immaculately landscaped vineyards, guests will sit down at twilight to discover the recent vintages of Opus One. In addition, the winner will receive a Magnum bottle of the 2014 Opus One.
- **Behind-the-Scenes Day and Dinner at Monteverde in Chicago and Lesson from James Beard Award Winner Chef Sarah Grueneberg** - Sarah Grueneberg, Naples Winter Wine Festival’s 2020 Chef de Cuisine, began cooking at age eight at her grandparents’ ranch in Southeastern Texas. She grew through the ranks in Houston and Chicago before opening her own restaurant in Chicago in 2016, Monteverde Restaurant & Pastificio, with the goal of offering food that is “soulful, surprising and filled with storytelling.” The winning bidder will receive an immersion into the world of Monteverde, beginning with a day spent observing Chef Sarah and her team. This will be followed by a lesson in pasta making for two, and dinner for four at Monteverde with wine pairings.
- **A Private Whiskey Tasting and Dinner at The Grill Bar at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples** - Four people will visit the luxurious Ritz-Carlton, Naples, which has become famous for its innovative dining. The hotel has accumulated accolades like Five stars from the *Forbes Travel Guide* and “The #1 Hotel in Naples” from *U.S. News & World Report*. The crown jewel in The Ritz-Carlton, Naples’ restaurant collection is The Grill, specializing in Prime-aged steaks from Allen Brothers in Chicago as well as fresh seafood from around the country. The winning bidder’s party of four will enjoy a private dinner at The Grill, along with an exclusive whiskey tasting.
- **Five Nights Stay in a Luxury Cottage at Linville Ridge Country Club in North Carolina** - Three couples will escape for pure mountain air, an unhurried lifestyle and remarkably friendly people. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Linville Ridge is a summer mountain resort and home to the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, the largest modern Highland games in the state. The winning bidder’s party of six will be ensconced for five nights in a luxury cottage, where they’ll be playing the highest

elevation golf course east of the Mississippi River. In addition to the many dining venues and scenic mountain trails, guests will participate in one of the many activities centered around the clubhouse: tennis, bocce, bridge, croquet, pickleball and the book club.

- **Subscription and Backstage Look at The Naples Players** - Since 1953, The Naples Players have been bringing the very best of Broadway to the world of regional theater. The company has been named “Best Live Theater in Southwest Florida” 15 times by the readers of *Naples Daily News*. In addition to two three-show flex subscriptions to the current 2019-20 season, the winner will receive two nine-show subscriptions to next year’s lineup, along with two complimentary drinks per performance. They’ll also get a special behind-the-scenes tour and dinner with Bryce Alexander, who took over as executive artistic director from Dallas Dunnagan in 2016.
- **Travel, Accommodations and Four Luxury Suite Tickets to The Ohio State Buckeyes vs. University of Michigan Wolverines Football Game** - To its dedicated followers, it is known simply as “The Game:” the annual showdown between The Ohio State University Buckeyes and the University of Michigan Wolverines. This year’s game will be played in Ohio on November 28, 2020. The winning bidder’s party of four will be transported by Roundtrip, First Class Airfare, lodged in a luxury hotel in downtown Columbus, wined and dined for two nights, and eventually watch the game in a Luxury Suite.

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 Monday, January 20th at 8:00 a.m. until Tuesday, January 28th at 5:00 p.m. (EST).

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

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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.