

Get set to cruise for a good cause

Wine festival auction offers trips, Mercedes, more to raise funds for children



Andrew Atkins Naples Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Step on a plane in Naples and off in the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean with your spouse and another couple of your choice — all you have to do is win the lot from the 2022 Naples Winter Wine Festival. ● The Naples Children and Education Foundation announced its first round of auction lots for the 22nd iteration of its annual fundraiser Tuesday. This year's event, under the theme "Rise Up: Twenty Twenty Twogether," returns to an in-person format Jan. 28-30 after going digital last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ● Rick Germain, on the festival's auction lot committee, said in a news release these were "some of the most amazing experiences and wine lots that we have ever seen."

"We are confident these unique lots will attract a great deal of interest, which is important as all of the money raised under the tent goes toward improving the educational, emotional and health outcomes of underprivileged and at-risk children in our county," he said.

In March, NCEF awarded more than \$9 million in grants to almost 40 local nonprofits whose work improves the lives of at-risk children in Collier County. The 2021 digital festival raised about \$7.4 million, while the online auction raised \$678,000. Since its inaugural event in 2001, the NWWF has raised nearly \$220 million.

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Left: One bidder will win a four-couple trip to Green Bay's Lambeau Field in Wisconsin, where they'll golf at Whistling Straits, enjoy pregame field passes to the Green Bay Packers and watch a game from a luxury box with the owners of Johnsonville Sausage Company. WILLIAM GLASHEEN/USA TODAY NETWORK
Center: A lucky 2022 Naples Winter Wine Festival auction lot winner will own a new Mercedes-Benz AMG G 63 Wagon. SUBMITTED
Right: One auction lot includes time in the 201-foot, 16-crew motoryacht Katharine, cruising the cities of Trogir and Hvar in Croatia. SUBMITTED

ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL LAMBERT/USA TODAY NETWORK, AND GETTY IMAGES

Auction

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That trip to the Caribbean includes stops in Page, Arizona, and Santa Rosa, California, a private massage for each attendee and dinner at SingleThread Farm — rated a perfect three stars by the prestigious Michelin guide — in Healdsburg, California.

Another lot is a four-couple trip to Green Bay's Lambeau Field in Wisconsin, where they'll golf at Whistling Straits and enjoy pregame field passes to the Green Bay Packers and watch a game from a luxury box with hosts Shelley and Ralph Stayer, owners of Johnsonville Sausage Company.

Or five couples could fly private to Croatia, where they'll spend two nights aboard the motoryacht Katharine, cruising through Trogir and Hvar. Then they'll spend four nights at the Relais & Châteaux Villa Korta Katarina and Winery, including a tour, lunch and tasting. The final two nights will be spent back aboard the Katharine, visiting Polace and Trogir before returning to the United States via private jet.

For the more vehicularly inclined, the

NWWF provides: one winner will own a new Mercedes-Benz AMG G 63 Wagon. Nappa leather seats, 577 horsepower, and a 15-speaker surround-sound system are only part of the luxury the winning bidder will find behind the wheel.

Yet the jet-setters will still find more reasons to rejoice: two couples will spend 13 nights in New Zealand, with stays at a two-bedroom Member's Cottage at Tara Iti Golf Club, Hilltop Suites at Cape Kidnappers and Lake View Suites at Eichardts, among others. It's more than lodging, though, with fly fishing, a private wine and lunch tour and a helicopter tour, too.

Bill Beynon, another auction lot committee member, said in the release these lots are only a sampling of more to come.

"Interest in these remarkable wine lots and travel experience lots will be high as we build momentum toward the biggest and boldest Naples Winter Wine Festival yet," he said.

Ticket packages for the 2022 Naples Winter Wine Festival start at \$15,000 per couple for a double magnum package or \$35,000 for a Jeroboam package. The festival's 2022 chef de cuisine is Nancy Oakes, who is executive chef and owner of Boulevard in San Francisco



Julia Van Domelen bids on lot 32, "The Wines and Worlds of Argentina," during the Naples Winter Wine Festival live auction at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples on Jan. 25, 2020.

ALEX DRIEHAUS/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

and was named California's best chef in 2001 by the James Beard Foundation.

For more information on additional lots and the festival, visit napleswinefestival.com.

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