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Auction Napa Valley Raises a Record-Breaking \$18.7 Million for Napa Healthcare and Nonprofits

June 12, 2014

by [ANGELLA SPRAUVE](#) | Published in [HAUTE SCENE](#), [NEWS](#)



Darioush Khaledi at the Live Auction. Photo by Jason Tinacci for the Napa Valley Vintner

The winning combination of renowned Napa Valley wine, talented chefs and stunning scenery inspired bidders from across the country and around the world to open their hearts and wallets, leaving behind \$18.7 million for healthcare and children's education nonprofits. The Napa Valley Vintners (NVV) nonprofit trade association today updated its projected \$18.4 million total announced Saturday night, once the final tallies came across the finish line on Sunday. The ascension to new heights of success once again demonstrates the position of Auction Napa Valley, the American Wine



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The crescendo of the weekend was Saturday's Live Auction, consisting of 50 one-of-a-kind lots showcasing the allure of Napa Valley wines, extraordinary adventures and objects of desire. As the thrill of bidding streaked across the iconic white tent, several NVV members spontaneously increased their already generous auction lots to include additional successful bidders who wanted in on the action. In total, seven lots were doubled on Saturday afternoon, helping to contribute to the overall Auction total. The highest bids went to Raymond Vineyards, whose two ultimate, one-of-a-kind Oscar lots totaled \$820,000.



The ever charismatic Jean-Charles Boisset. Photo by Jason Tinacci for the Napa Valley Vintners.

At the end of the Live Auction, the Gargiulos, along with honorary co-chairs David Duncan of Silver Oak and Twomey Cellars and his wife, Dr. Kary Duncan, took the stage to make an appeal for Fund-A-Need, the lot that has no wine, no hospitality or trips associated with it – only the satisfaction that comes from making a difference in the lives of children in need. The Fund -A-Need lot drew an emotional response from bidders in increments from \$1,000 to \$1 million. The online version of Fund-A-Need allowed bidders from anywhere in the world to contribute, with donations starting at \$30. In total, 100 bidders contributed to the in-person and online Fund-A-Need lots bringing \$3.8 million to the fundraising total, which will support early intervention and prevention of the most pressing issues facing Napa County youth.



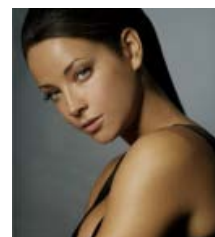
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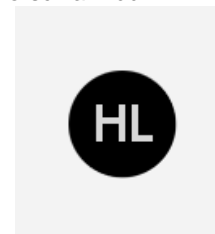


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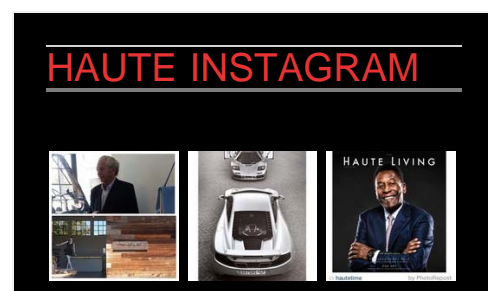


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Toward the end of the Fund-A-Need, one very generous bidder stepped up offering a \$1 million contribution.

Photo by Bob McClenahan for Napa Valley Vintners

Saturday's culinary showcase, including the finale dinner, was guided by The Restaurant at Meadowood's executive chef, Christopher Kostow and celebrated the interconnected community of Napa Valley winemakers, farmers, foragers, hunters, millers and purveyors. "It was wonderful to work with my fellow Napa Valley chefs and friends for such an amazing celebration of our community, while bringing awareness to local causes. To have played even a small part in such an auspicious event was such an honor," noted Chef Kostow, the thoughtful recipient of three Michelin stars and a recent James Beard Award.



Margrit Mondavi and Geneviève Janssens go on stage with Fritz Hatton to promote their lot.



Senator Mike Thompson and chef Thomas Keller at Auction Napa Valley. Photo by Jason Tinacci for the Napa Valley Vintners.



Meadowood Napa Valley's Michelin Star chef Christopher Kostow speaks with Billy Bush. Photo by Jason Tinacci for the Napa Valley Vintners.



Post auction dinner at Meadowood Napa Valley. Photo by Jason Tinacci for the Napa Valley Vintners.

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