



The Daily Meal[®]

All Things Food & Drink

Opening night festivities for last year's Sonoma Wine Country weekend by the pool at the Francis Ford Coppola Winery.

The charitable wine auction is back this Labor Day, and organizers are hoping to break last year's fundraising efforts

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★★★★★ 1 rating

Men on stilts taking daring steps near auction tables and generous pours, the fabulous set sipping under tents on the MacMurray Ranch, flappers raising money for children — just a few of the lively scenes from the [Sonoma Wine Country Weekend](#) attended by The Daily Meal in 2015. Every year, this wine charity fundraiser gathers more than 200 of Sonoma's top winemakers and the area's celebrated chefs to fundraise on behalf of farm workers, students, and other folks in need in Sonoma County. This year's Sonoma Wine Country Weekend over Labor Day (Sept. 2–4) is on the horizon, and with its indulgent tastings in scenic vistas, winemaker lunches, Marrakesh-themed wine auction, and the 40th anniversary celebration of the Judgment of Paris (at which several California wines bested their famous French counterparts, bringing the state's vintages true international attention for the first time), it's looking to be a great time for a good cause once again.

Ranked as one of the top three charitable wine auctions in America by Wine Spectator, — and jointly produced by the [Sonoma County Vintners](#) and the [Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Foundation](#) — the Sonoma Wine Country Weekend is an opportunity for food and wine enthusiasts to enjoy themselves, but with a serious goal.

Indeed, in 2015, the event set a new record by raising \$4.5 million. Since its inception, Sonoma Wine Country Weekend has raised more than \$20 million for charities. This year, organizers are hoping to do even more. Their goal is to raise \$5 million, more than \$2 million of that earmarked to support reading programs across Sonoma County to help close the literacy gap of third graders.

Another finale: Some standout auction items include two nights of glamour at the Golden Globes with the president of the [Boisset Collection, Jean-Charles Boisset](#),