

The Haute SF Bay Area Events You May Have Missed

BY KELLY E. CARTER | HAUTE SCENE, NEWS | MARCH 4, 2016

There have been so many haute events—some wild, some glamorous—taking place in and around San Francisco that we simply must get you caught up on them. Here is what's been going on lately.



Jean-Charles Boisset at Napa Gras at Raymond Vineyards

Anyone who think the Napa Valley isn't fun at night hasn't been to a party thrown by vintner **Jean-Charles Boisset**, whose over-the-top bashes are always loads of fun. Such was the case recently when the flamboyant Frenchman held at Raymond Vineyards its highly-anticipated, fifth annual Napa Gras, a Burlesque-themed celebration to inspire and delight the wine trade, journalists and VIPs in town to bid on the extraordinary wines for the Napa Valley Vintners' Premiere Napa Valley. Boisset greeted attendees with JCB No. 21 sparkling wine while seated in a larger-than-life coupe Champagne glass. This year's theme was burlesque and attendees came dressed to impress in unique masks and custom-made attire. Raymond Vineyards' wines were served throughout the night and entertainment was the highlight of the evening with special performances by Brook Lynn's Burlesque, aerialists and gold body-painted models from Aurora Circus Arts-Aerial Entertainment, entertained party-goers throughout the evening by performing on the main stage in the Crystal Cellar tasting room. DJ Jeff from Wine Country Entertainment was on hand playing music throughout the winery, while live music from Honey Mahogany serenaded guests in the famous Red Room.

A large cheese and charcuterie platter was also displayed for guests to nibble on as well as an abundant dessert presentation made up of red and chocolate macaroons. Additional entertainment during the evening included a Photo Booth by Joy Squad. Everything was accented by dramatic lighting from Lux productions and Alex Rubin Photography captured photos throughout the night. At the Premiere Napa Valley barrel tasting and auction, Raymond Vineyards' lot brought in \$27,000 for 5 cases, or \$450 per bottle. Called Masquerade, the Raymond Premiere Napa Valley auction lot was a 2014 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. The work of esteemed Raymond Winemaker **Stephanie Putnam**, world-renowned Consulting Winemaker **Philippe Melka** and Boisset, Masquerade combines the best lots of fruit from Boisset's Napa Valley vineyards into a stunning expression of pure velvet opulence in a glass. This contributed to the staggering results achieved with a total of \$5 million being raised for the Napa Valley Vintners (NVV) fundraising at the 20th annual Premiere Napa Valley barrel tasting and auction.