

Sports and Wine Come Together at V Foundation Wine Celebration

BY KATIE SWEENEY | HAUTE PURSUITS, NEWS, SPOTLIGHT | AUGUST 10, 2016

In 1993, basketball coach and ESPN commentator **Jim Valvano** gave a memorable speech at the **ESPY Awards**. At that time, Valvano was fighting cancer, a battle which he lost just eight weeks after giving one of the most inspirational speeches in sports history. He encourage people to laugh, think, and cry. "To me, there are three things we all should do every day. Number one is laugh. You should laugh every day. Number two is think. You should spend some time in thought. Number three is cry. You should have your emotions moved to tears. If you laugh, you think, and you cry...that's a full day. That's a heck of day." This sentiment, to 'laugh, think, and cry' was the theme for the 18th annual **V Foundation Wine Celebration**, which took place in Napa over the weekend. The **V Foundation for Cancer Research** was created after Valvano's death. It has funded more than \$150 million in grants that research cancer cures. The Wine Celebration, a three day event filled with dinners and discussions, is the foundation's biggest benefit that brings together 500 members of the sports broadcasting, investment, medical, entertainment, and winemaking worlds.



Auctioneer **John Curley** called the live auction, which included 32 spectacular lots with magnums of **Alpha Omega**, experiences with winemakers, like a fashion show at **Jean-Charles Boisset** and **Gina Gallo's** home with designer **Rubin Singer**, and tickets to the Super Bowl. **McCalls Catering** served up a sensational meal that featured a savory turnip panna cotta, delectable quail confit, grilled dijon coated lamb chops and Merguez sausage with ratatouille, and a cheese course with local cheese. An after party featured a dessert lounge and tunes by **Grammy Award-winning Eagles** guitarist, **Don Felder**. \$5.2 million were raised at the event which was attended by the following notable figures: **George Bodenheimer**, **Nick Valvano**, **Susan Braun**, **Dr. Jonathan Simons**, **Dr. Robert Bast, Jr.**, **Gary Newell**, and **Beth Nickel**.