

TOAST OF THE VALLEY

V Wine Foundation hosts August fundraising celebration

The 16th annual V Wine Celebration, which raises funds for the V Foundation for Cancer Research, is slated for Thursday, Aug. 7, through Saturday, Aug. 10, in Napa Valley. The three-day signature fundraising event encompasses fine wines, gourmet cuisine, live music entertainment, and live and silent auctions.

Over the last 15 years, the V Wine Celebration has raised more than \$53 million with this annual event. Funds have helped the organization provide 539 cancer research grants nationwide, including grants in the San Francisco Bay Area to the Martin O'Neil Cancer Center at St. Helena Hospital, Napa's Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Stanford University School of Medicine and UCSF Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Earlier this year, The V Foundation appointed Steve Bornstein as its board chairman. Bornstein was instrumental in helping to create the foundation in 1993 when he was president of ESPN. Formerly the president and CEO of the NFL Network, Bornstein succeeds Robert Lloyd, who served as The V Foundation chairman from 1994 to 2014, in memory of his best friend, Jimmy Valvano. Lloyd will remain an active member of the board of directors and continue to play a leadership role in the V Wine Celebration.

"The V Wine Celebration is a fabulous weekend with abundant offerings of great wines, superb food, and the gathering together of old and new friends in the fight against cancer," said Julie Allegro, founder of The V Wine Celebration.

This year's event will kick off Thursday, Aug. 7 with dinners at Raymond Vineyards, Silver Oak Cellars and Vineyard 7 & 8. Donors of \$500,000 and above will be hosted by Suzanne Pride Bryan and Stuart Brian at the Humanitarian & Founders Dinner at Pride Mountain Vineyards.

On Friday, Aug. 8, donors of more than \$50,000 will be invited to attend the honoree luncheon at the Napa Valley Reserve. The 2014 Vintner Grant honoree at the luncheon will be Naoko

Dalla Valle, founder and proprietor of Dalla Valle Vineyards. Dalla Valle lost her father to lung cancer and her husband to prostate cancer, and in January of this year, her 11-year-old nephew succumbed to Diffused Pontine Intrinsic Glioma (DPIG). Determined to fight this horrible pediatric brain cancer, Dalla Valle has raised \$350,000, including a matching grant from Salesforce.com CEO Marc Benioff and his wife, Lynn. The V Foundation will make a grant in Dalla Valle's name to help launch a DPIG clinical trial at UCSF.

Friday evening's popular "Let's Get it Started" party at the Vintage Estates in Yountville, showcasing the All-Stars of research, will feature Napa Valley restaurateurs and vintners, and offer a custom barrel auction, where guests will have the opportunity to bid on cases of custom-created wine blends from wine-makers.

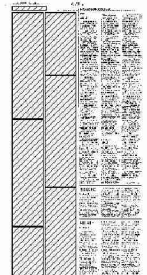
Saturday, Aug. 9, will begin with a Cancer Research Symposium hosted by members of The V Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee, presenting the most current advances and discoveries in clinical applications, new diagnostics and alternative treatments for cancer. The symposium will be followed by an Innovators & Icons Marketplace event with wine and food from local purveyors.

The weekend's activities will culminate with a gala dinner and live auction at Nickel & Nickel Winery, followed by a private performance by The Midtown Men, the four stars from the original cast of Broadway's Jersey Boys.

Olympic gold medalist, world figure skating champion and U.S. Olympic Hall of Famer Scott Hamilton will serve as the host of The V Wine Celebration. In 1997, Scott was diagnosed with testicular cancer, which he battled and overcame. Years later, he also faced a brain tumor diagnosis twice, finally recovering in 2010.

The fund-a-need will raise funds in support of bladder cancer research, in honor of Dave Kane. Kane, an active V Wine Celebration board member for many years, lost his 17-year battle with bladder cancer in 2011.

For more information about The V Foundation Wine Celebration, visit WineCelebration.org or contact The V



Foundation Wine Celebration office at 707-963-0611.

Gloria Ferrer hosts annual Catalan festival this weekend



Submitted photo

Paella is on the menu for the Catalan Festival taking place Saturday and Sunday at the Gloria Ferrer Caves and Vineyards in Sonoma.

SONOMA — The Gloria Ferrer Caves and Vineyards host their annual Catalan Festival this weekend at the Sonoma winery.

Now in its 22nd year, the two-day festival was established by the Ferrer family of Spain to honor the opening of the first Catalan-owned winery in California in 1986.

On Saturday, July 19 and Sunday, July 20, from noon to 4 p.m., the event includes tastings of Gloria Ferrer Carneros sparkling and estate varietal wines, as well as select wines from the Ferrer family's Spanish wineries. Tapas, paella, cooking demonstrations, cocktail demonstrations, traditional dance lessons and a festive grape stomp are part of the festival, which benefits the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation. Music and entertainment will be provided by Makru Music and Sol Flamenco.

On view also will be the handmade Gegants de Mataró made specifically for Gloria Ferrer. These 15-foot-tall paper mâché figures represent the Catalan medieval king and queen and are traditional to every Catalan town festival.

Tickets range from \$60-\$90 per person, and are on sale at GloriaFerrer.com or call the winery directly at 707-933-1917. Gloria Ferrer Caves & Vineyards are at 23555 Carneros Highway in Sonoma.

Meadowood announces 12 Days of Christmas lineup

The Twelve Days of Christmas at Meadowood Napa Valley returns for its seventh season, Dec. 5 through 20.

Hosted by chef Christopher Kostow, director Nathaniel Dorn and The Restaurant at Meadowood team, the 12-day, charitable food and wine celebration will once again benefit two Napa Valley charities, The Holly Cranston Memorial Fund that helps children with disabilities and their families, and the Napa Emergency Women's Services (NEWS), which provides a refuge for women and children suffering from domestic violence.

Meadowood will donate \$2,000 in honor of each participating chef, plus 20 percent of every dinner ticket sold to be shared equally between the local charities.

Chefs and vintners participating this year are: The Twelve Days of Christmas 2014 Chefs and Vintners

- Day 1: Friday, Dec. 5

Chef Matthew Orlando of Amass Restaurant, Copenhagen, Denmark
 Armand de Maigret, The Hilt / Jonata

- Day 2: Saturday, Dec. 6

Chefs Frank Castronovo & Frank Falcinelli of Frankies Spuntino and Prime Meats, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Boots Brounstein, Diamond Creek Vineyards

- Day 3: Tuesday, Dec. 9

Chef Kobe Desramaults of In De Wulf, Dranouter, Belgium

Ted and Heidi Lemmon, Littorai Wines

- Day 4: Wednesday, Dec. 10

Chef Alexandre Gauthier of La Grenouillère, La Madelaine sous Montreuil, France

Mark Malpiede, Williams Selyem

- Day 5: Thursday, Dec. 11

Chef Blaine Wetzel of The Willows Inn, Lummi Island, Wash.;

Ehren Jordan and Anne-Marie Failla, Failla wines

- Day 6: Friday, Dec. 12

Chef Joshua McFadden of Ava Gene's and Roman Candle Baking Co., Portland, Ore.

John and Maggy Kongsgaard, Kongsgaard

- Day 7: Saturday, Dec. 13

Chef Virgilio Martínez of Central, Lima, Peru and Lima London, London, England

Mondavi Family, Continuum Estate

- Day 8: Tuesday, Dec. 16

Chef Grant Achatz of Alinea, Next and The Aviary, Chicago, Ill.

Cam Baker and Kate Solari Baker,
Larkmead Vineyards

- Day 9: Wednesday, Dec. 17

Chef Corey Lee of Bernu and Monsieur Benjamin, San Francisco;

Steve and Jill Klein Matthiasson,
Matthiasson

- Day 10: Thursday, Dec. 18

Chef Esben Holmboe Bang of
Maaemo, Oslo, Norway

Joe Wender and Ann Colgin, Colgin Cellars

- Day 11: Friday, Dec. 19

Chef Ignacio Mattos, Estela,
New York

Mr. and Mrs. Hi Sang Lee,
Dana Estates

- Day 12: Saturday, Dec. 20

Chef Christopher Kostow, The Restaurant at Meadowood, St. Helena,

H. William and Deborah Harlan, Bond

Pricing options for The Twelve Days of Christmas 2014:

Dinner-only tickets are \$395 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Chef's Counter tickets, or guests wishing to dine in the kitchen in the midst of the action, are \$750 per person, plus tax and gratuity

Twelve Days overnight offering begins at \$1,375 for weekday events and \$1,450 for weekend events, plus tax and gratuity.

Chef's Counter seats and overnight offering begins at \$2,100 for weekday events and \$2,175 for weekend events, plus tax and gratuity.

Prices for overnights are per couple per night and includes one night's lodging at Meadowood, dinner seating for two and a copy of chef Kostow's upcoming book, "A New Napa Cuisine."

For dinner-only reservations, call 707-967-1712.

For package reservations, call 855-953-2435 or email reservations@meadowood.com.