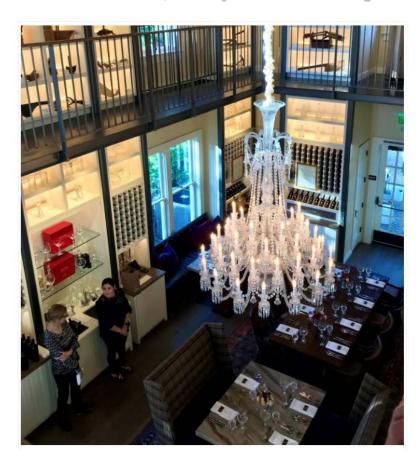


Raise a Glass, and Your Bidding Paddle, at a Wine Auction

Hi folks. Need a break from the serious news of the week? Me too. So here is a look at the frothy world of wine auctions. This is pure escapism and not particularly topical other than this weekend was supposed to be the 40th annual Auction Napa Valley, which, unfortunately, was cancelled due to COVID-19. Over the last few years, I've been lucky to attend wine auctions in Napa, Naples, Fla., the Willamette Valley and Seattle and here is what I have learned along the way.

It starts with a bunch of generous high-end wine lovers and/or high society folks who have a thing for gala weekends. Usually the festivities kick off with fancy dinners in the company of well-known winemakers, celebrity chefs and charming servers.



Lovely setting for winemaker Jean Charles Boisset's dinner at his Napa Valley Museum, 1881 Napa.