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Plans Underway for 13th Taste of Rappahannock

BY LAURA OVERSTREET | AUGUST 25TH, 2010 | [SHARE](#)



Le Silence, Burgundy, France

Plans are underway for Headwaters Foundation's 13th Annual Taste of Rappahannock, widely considered one of the county's most popular fundraising events. This year's event, which will be held at Belle Meade Schoolhouse on Sept. 11, beginning at 6 p.m., promises to be an exciting evening.

"We've hired Red Apple Auctions of Alexandria to help us with both the silent and live auctions, and they have some great new ideas that we are implementing," said Toni Egger, executive director for Headwaters.

Nearly 50 one-of-a-kind items will be auctioned. Already on the bidding list and sure to cause competitive bidding are a week at Le Silence, a charming, five-bedroom farmhouse in the scenic countryside of Burgundy, France, a trip to Cancun and a theater weekend in Washington, D.C.

Guests may bid on other experiences, such as a helicopter ride and accompanying gourmet picnic, a cooking workshop and dinner with well known chef and writer Hi Soo Hepinstall, a behind-the-scenes tour and tasting at Copper Fox Distillery, original art from a number of Rappahannock County's most accomplished artists, and more.

Rappahannock County's students have always been the primary beneficiaries of the Taste, and this year, more than ever, they will be a part of this time-honored event. Students will be involved in every aspect of the evening, from greeting and chatting with guests to serving hors d'oeuvres to helping prepare and serve a wide selection of dishes of locally sourced foods. A musical ensemble from Rappahannock High School will provide live background music. During the formal dinner program, one student will share how his experience with Headwaters has made a difference in his life.

Funds raised during the annual Taste of Rappahannock are crucial to underwriting the enrichment programs offered to students by Headwaters throughout the year. This year's "Challenge" will, in fact, be a challenge — thanks to generous donations by Rappahannock resident Mitzi Young and the late Took Crowell — and should generate significant contributions. High level challenge donors will be honored with a champagne reception.

The funds raised this year are more important than ever, as Headwaters looks to expand its outreach efforts. In addition to supporting its robust, long-lived programs, including Farm-to-Table, Starfish Mentoring, and Next Step, and its supportive teacher mini-grants and complimentary staff development efforts, funds are needed to develop new programs.

"Rappahannock County has a new school administration with new ideas and programs they will want to launch. We want to be ready and able to help," Egger said. "We would like to create an opportunity fund so that we can respond to developing needs and ideas for programs at all levels of school."

In the planning stage is an after-school program for elementary school children. Egger said that a survey will be sent in August to elementary school-age children and their parents. "We want to learn from the parents and students what they would like to see in an after-school program before we build it and will incorporate their thoughts and suggestions," Egger said. "We hope to start such a program in January." She credits Headwaters volunteer Philip Strange for outlining a proposal for the effort.

Demand for tickets this year will likely be greater than ever, in part because of advertising support in Flavor magazine, which reaches some 50,000 people throughout the region, including D.C., Maryland and northern and central Virginia. Details of this year's Taste are online at Headwaters Foundation's Web site, www.headwatersfdn.org.

Event Co-Chairs Cheri Woodard, Terri Lehman, and Ashleigh Cannon Sharp said that invitations to the 13th Annual Taste of Rappahannock were sent out in early August. Tickets are \$150 for individuals. Patron tables of 10 are \$2000. Sponsored tables are \$1200 and include two tickets to the event. No doubt, the event will sell out as soon as invitations reach the mailbox.

To participate, e-mail your name and address to Toni Egger at director@headwatersfdn.org or call Toni at 540-987-3322. Tickets are \$150 for individuals and tables may be sponsored. Event sponsorships are also available.

The Grand Prize: One week at Le Silence, a charming five bedroom farm house in central Burgundy's Parc Naturel Régional du Morvan. The property, originally part of the famous Manoir de Ruères, is situated in the quiet hamlet of that name midway among the historic cities of Avallon, Saulieu and Vézelay. Within easy driving distance, one may find the renowned wine regions of the Côte de Beaune, Côte de Nuits, Côte d'Or and Chablis, and somewhat further afield, Beaujolais and Sancerre. Several of the world's greatest restaurants are within a half an hour, including Marc Meneau's L'Espérance and the late Bernard Loiseau's Côte d'Or; and smaller but superb establishments abound nearby. Though 220km from Paris, Le Silence is connected by a near-by major auto route (circa 3 hours driving time), and for those wishing a long day or two in Paris, by a high speed train from nearby Montbard deposits you at the Gare de Lyon in one hour and one minute. The immediate environs of the house boast many of the poignant monuments to the World War II French Resistance, and the region is dotted with memorials to brave Americans and Britons who perished supporting them. The Musée de la Résistance in nearby Saint-Brisson is especially moving.

The house itself, which has been in the Wimbush family for nearly 30 years, sits on four hectares of wooded farmland. It has been substantially modernized and is fully equipped.

For local color, fine food and wine, history and culture, and the upmost tranquility, Le Silence is hard to match. This is a unique opportunity for one or several couples, or a larger extended family. Bidding starts at \$5,000 (for use of the house only; does not include travel).

