

The Margaret Acheson Stuart Society

Wine Weekend

St. Pete

2013

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In The News...



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On the town

2.11.11

It was an evening for oenophiles. The Margaret Acheson Stuart Society, which raises money for the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, presented its first wine auction and gala, and many who participated raved about the wines *and* about the fact that dozens of new faces were inside the museum.

The big silent auction, held in the Marly Room, boasted a variety of highly rated vintages from the United States and elsewhere, including French Bordeaux, pinot noirs from Oregon and Washington, even a 1976 burgundy.

The live auction, conducted in the Glass Conservatory of the Hazel Hough Wing by Sotheby's **Eliza Osborne**, featured lively bidding on travel as well as wine, including a magnum of 2005 Shrader "Old Sparky" cabernet sauvignon contributed by former St. Petersburg residents **Carol and Fred Schrader**, now Napa Valley vintners.

No firm figures yet on how much the event raised, but organizers did consult leaders with the Naples Winter Wine Festival; that auction, held in January, is the most successful in the world and raised \$12 million for children's charities this year.

Margaret Amley and **Pat Campbell-Stichweh** led the event committee, with help from **Charlotte Bacon**, **Joann Barger**, **Cathy Collins**, **Janet Crane**, **Blair Crimmen**, **Mary Lou DeVoe**, **Carol Fisher**, **Nancy Dunn**, **Sunny Endicott**, **Sue Hands**, **Chris Hilton**, **Elaine Hearn**, **Muffie Hoche**, **Mary Lou Howe**, **Camilla Kilgroe**, **Suzanne MacDougald**, **Signe Oberhofer**, **Donna Painter**, **Carol Piper**, **Joty Puckett**, **Gail Pyhel**, **Gail Razook**, **Fran Risser**, **Jane Schaumberg**, **Whitney Shoupe** and **Carol Treichel**.



Photo by James Branaman

Dav Mosby inspects one of the wines up for auction Friday with **John Hoche**, right, during the **Stuart Society of the Museum of Fine Arts Inaugural Wine Auction and Gala** at the museum in St. Petersburg.

In The News...

WINE | EVENTS

Bordeaux on the block

By Janet K. Keeler
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The Museum of Fine Arts in St. Pete is getting a jump on the fundraising wine season with its inaugural wine auction and gala Feb. 11.

Dozens of wines donated by businesses and individuals will go on the auction block to benefit the downtown museum. Among the most intriguing is a six-bottle vertical collection of 1999-2004 Merryvale Vineyards Bordeaux valued at \$900.

The wines are heavy on California vintages, but another Bordeaux, a 1989 Chateau Montrose from France that is rated 96 points by wine expert Robert Parker, might elicit great interest from patrons, especially if they can cellar it for a few more years. It is valued at \$300.

Also up for auction is a \$1,000 bottle of 2005 Schrader Cabernet Sauvignon "Old Sparky," rated 96 points by Parker. Schrader Cellars in Napa Valley is owned by Fred Schrader, formerly of St. Pete. He can't make it to

this year's event, but promises to attend the 2012 auction, organizers say.

Some other auction items include etched wine glasses from St. Pete artist Duncan McClellan.

Margaret Amley and Pat Campbell-Stichweh are co-chairs of the event, organized by the museum's Margaret Acheson Stuart Society.

Amley and her committee received guidance from the High Museum (Atlanta) auction organizers, as well as from experts at American Spirits in St. Pete and Bern's Steak House in Tampa. She said the wine offerings came together almost organically.

The list of wines include "limited edition, hard-to-get cult wines that you just can't go into wine stores to buy," Amley said.

The most lucrative wine auction in the United States is staged every winter in Naples and raises money for children's programs in Collier County. The Naples Winter Wine Festival, held last weekend, brought in \$12 million, which made the event's 11-year total \$94.5 million. The top wine lot was

Wine auction and gala

The Museum of Fine Arts fundraiser begins at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 11 at the museum, 255 Beach Drive NE in St. Pete. The event will include dinner plus silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$225 per person, and the deadline to reserve is Sunday. For more information, call (727) 896-2667, ext. 197, or go to fine-arts.org.

100 bottles of 100-point wine in a custom cabinet that went for \$400,000.

An even longer-running charity wine event hosted by the Abilities Foundation will attract about 4,000 sippers to Tropicana Field in St. Pete for its 22nd annual tasting event on March 19. Go to abilitiesfoundation.com for more information.

The Tampa Bay Wine & Food Festival, which benefits Abilities and the Moffitt Cancer Center is May 15-16 at the Don CeSar Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach. Visit unleashyourpalate.com.

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Wines up for bid at museum gala

Donations to benefit the Museum of Fine Arts include a vertical collection, a 96-point Bordeaux and limited edition wines.

BY JANET K. KEELER
Times Food and Travel Editor

ST. PETERSBURG — The Museum of Fine Arts is getting a jump on the fundraising wine season with its inaugural wine auction and gala Feb. 11.

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The wines are heavy on California vintages, but another Bordeaux, a 1989 Chateau Montrose from France that is rated 96 points by wine expert Robert Parker, might elicit great interest from patrons, especially if they can cellar it for a few more years. It would be most amiable with a plate of soft French, such as Brie and Camembert. The Chateau Montrose is valued at \$300.

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bottle of 2005 Schrader Cabernet Sauvignon "Old Sparky," rated 96 points by Parker. Schrader Cellars in Napa Valley is owned by Fred Schrader, formerly of St. Petersburg. He can't make it to this year's event, but promises to attend the 2012 auction, organizers say.

In addition to wine, some of the other auction items include etched wine glasses from St. Petersburg artist Duncan McClellan and vacation getaways in Utah and North Carolina.

Margaret Amley and Pat Campbell-Stichweh are co-chairwomen of the event, which is organized by the museum's Margaret Acheson Stuart Society. Amley says the auction is patterned after one that the High Museum in Atlanta has held for 18 years. Last year's auction raised \$1.3 million for the museum.

Amley and her committee received guidance from the High auction organizers, as well as

from experts at American Spirits in St. Petersburg and Bern's Steak House in Tampa. The wine offerings, though, came together almost organically, she says.

"So many of the people associated with Stuart Society members are wine collectors and have wine cellars well known in this area," she says.

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IF YOU GO

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more information.

Another upcoming wine event for charity is the Tampa Bay Wine & Food Festival, which benefits Abilities and the Moffitt Cancer Center. It is May 15-16 at the Don CeSar Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach. For more information, go to unleashyourpalate.com. (Note: The website is not yet updated for 2011.)

Janet K. Keeler can be reached at jkeeler@sptimes.com.

Neighborhood

Social scene



MARY JANE PARK

Mary Jane Park can be reached at 893-8267 or mjpark@tampabay.com.

Science Center ball honors innovators

The Science Center of Pinellas presents its 2012 Innovators Ball from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday at the Garden Club of St. Petersburg, 501 Sunset Drive S, featuring entertainment, dinner, dancing, auctions and giveaways. Dressy casual. \$60 individual, \$100 couple. www.sciencecenterofpinellas.org; (727) 384-0027.

Works of floral art at fine arts museum

Flowers After Hours, a preview of Art in Bloom at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, will feature an "Iron Florist" competition between professional florists, jazz music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and a first look at floral art works in the museum. The event, presented by the Margaret Acheson Stuart Society, runs from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday in the conservatory at the museum, 255 Beach Drive NE. \$85. The society also will host the annual Art in Bloom luncheon at 11:30 a.m. March 5 at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort, 501 Fifth Ave. NE. That event will feature a presentation by internationally known designer Ian Prosser of Tampa. \$65. Art in Bloom runs through March 6 at the museum. (727) 896-2667, ext. 197.

Nonprofit groups can apply for grants

The Queens Court, which raises money for charities and civic organizations through its Queen of Hearts Ball, is accepting applications from Pinellas County organizations to receive grants from the 2013 event. Charities must be listed under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. Call (727) 822-7571. The deadline is Thursday.

On the town



Photo by James Branaman

Fred Schrader, left, co-owner of Schrader Cellars, talks with Hubert Turley at the second Margaret Acheson Stuart Society wine auction.

02.10.12

Trips to Paris, Cannes, France, New York, Napa Valley, Calif., and Palm Beach. Flights of extraordinary wines. Unique haute couture.

Bidders at the second Margaret Acheson Stuart Society wine auction to benefit the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg raised nearly \$90,000 for those luxuries, and the silent auction took in an additional \$30,000. In all, the event stands to net about \$190,000 for the museum, an impressive increase over the net proceeds from the inaugural auction in 2011.

Participants mingled in the museum's Marly Room and membership garden for cocktails, appetizers and a look at silent auction items, then moved to the glass conservatory for a seated dinner from Michael's on East in Sarasota.

There, auctioneer **Ben Ferdinand** from the Hart Davis Hart Wine Co. encouraged bidders to be generous.

Guests came from near and far, and many were able to meet St. Petersburg native **Fred Schrader** and his wife, **Carol**. Their Schrader Cellars in Napa Valley has produced remarkable wines, several having received *Wine Spectator's* highest-possible scores and perfect ratings from critic **Robert M. Parker**.

Some of those vintages were offered at the auction and at a preview the evening before in the home of **Jim** and **Suzanne MacDougald**. Additional co-hosts for that event were **Mary Lou** and **Tom DeVoe** and **Sunny** and **Dr. James Endicott**.

Leading a committee that included more than 50 volunteers were **Margaret Amley** and **Chris Hilton**, with assistance from Stuart Society president **Elise Minkoff**.

2.15.12

Community leaders use "the Tampa Bay area" as a broad definition of our place in Florida, but it can feel as if a passport is required to commute among communities.

Mary B. Perry, a longtime supporter of both the Museum of Fine Arts and the Tampa Museum of Art, brought trustees and collectors of both institutions together at "Bridging the Bay," held in the St. Petersburg museum. Director **Kent Lydecker** and guest curator **Bob Bianchi** led a tour of the Egypt exhibition, and TMA director **Todd Smith** made brief comments.

2.12.12

University of South Florida head football coach **Skip Holtz** and presenting sponsor Hays Cos. led the pairing party for the first PARC celebrity pro-am golf tournament at the Avila Golf & Country Club in Tampa.

More than 250 guests attended the event, which matched celebrity players with 18 sponsor teams. The tournament took place at Avila the next day.

In addition to Holtz, celebrity players included **Toby Hall**, **Jerry Wunsch**, **Reginald Roundtree**, **Daren Puppa**, **Tino Martinez**, **Jason Romano**, **Mark Royals**, **Barry Smith**, **Joe Magrane**, **Jen Holloway**, **Chris Dingman**, **Casey Weldon**, **Anthony Becht**, **Jim Dent**, **Dave Greenwood**, **Fran Curci**, **Jody Reed**, **Lou Piniella**, **Kevin House**, **Vinny Testaverde**, **Alex Lavisky**, **Aaron Holbert**, **Fred McGriff** and **Dick Crippen**.

Co-chairs for the inaugural event were **Scott Brinner**, **Tom Harrington**, **Susan Rasmussen** and **Laurie Stogniew**.