



Annual Classic Wines Auction Raises More than \$2.3 Million for Children and Families in Oregon and SW Washington

Portland, Ore. (March 10, 2020) — Classic Wines Auction, a Portland, Oregon-based nonprofit benefiting children and families in Oregon and SW Washington, raised more than \$2.3 million during its 36th annual Gala Auction on Saturday, March 7. To date, Classic Wines Auction has raised more than \$50 million and proceeds from this year's auction will benefit five local nonprofits: Metropolitan Family Service (MFS), New Avenues for Youth, Friends of the Children-Portland, YWCA Clark County and Unity Center for Behavioral Health.

Presented by Mercedes-Benz of Portland and Mercedes-Benz of Beaverton, the 2020 Gala Auction welcomed 650 guests at the Oregon Convention Center. The event featured hundreds of Silent and Super-Silent Auction items, tastings from top Portland chefs, more than fifty wineries from around the world, a multi-course dinner, and incredible Live Auction lots.

Top lots included:

- French Days of Decadence, curated by CWA Board members William Oben and Matt Felton. This collection of once-in-a-lifetime experiences in Paris, Rhône and Burgundy included access to exclusive wineries and personal experiences with iconic winemakers
- A Mercedes-Benz G550 SUV donated by Presenting Sponsors Mercedes-Benz of Portland and Mercedes-Benz of Beaverton
- Exclusive access to Maison Krug in Champagne
- A stay at a luxury estate in Punta Mita, Mexico

Photos from this year's auction are available [here](#).

"Thank you to all of the generous sponsors, donors, wine ambassadors, chefs, and volunteers who participated in the 2020 Classic Wines Auction," said Heather Martin, Classic Wines Auction Executive Director. "We received positive feedback about enhancements made to the format of this year's event and we are grateful that guests continue to stand up to support the community in such a significant way."

"In light of the emerging coronavirus situation and corresponding market downturn, we were grateful that we were able to proceed with all events, with both good attendance and engaged audiences," she continued. "With your help, we are having a collective impact on key social issues in our community and changing the lives of more than 50,000 children and families this year."

In addition to the star culinary talent, Classic Wines Auction also recognized four Honorary Wine Ambassadors from around the world: Krug Champagne from France, Heitz Wine Cellars from California, Pepper Bridge Winery from Washington, and Ponzi Winery from Oregon.

Each Ambassador presented a Live Auction lot and donated wine to events throughout the weekend. The Ambassadors Dinner, held Thursday prior to the Auction, celebrated these Ambassadors with a multi-course dinner prepared by top Portland chefs.

Throughout the year, Classic Wines Auction hosts a number of events in support of its nonprofit partners, culminating in the March auction. This past fall, the organization hosted a series of collaborative dinners pairing top Willamette Valley's winemakers and Portland's hottest restaurants. The dinner series will continue in the winter (February 25, 26 and 27), spring (April 28, 29 and 30), at Corks + Forks (June 4), and in a new summer series taking place in the Willamette Valley.

About Classic Wines Auction

Consistently recognized as one of the top ten charity wine auctions in the country by Wine Spectator Magazine, the Classic Wines Auction has raised more than \$50 million for local nonprofit partners since its inception in 1982. Based in Portland, Ore., Classic Wines Auction, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to producing the Classic Wines Auction and related food and wine events to raise funds for local organizations benefiting children and families, including: Metropolitan Family Service (MFS), New Avenues for Youth, Friends of the Children-Portland, YWCA Clark County and Unity Center for Behavioral Health. For more information, visit <https://www.classicwinesauction.com/>

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