

NAPLES WINE FESTIVAL

Dream lots: India trip; meet ex-QB J. Montana

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Jet off to India for dinner with one of the royal family — in your custom-made sari and jodhpurs, fitted by their own tailor — and revel in a 10-day visit to fragrant spice markets and jaw-dropping landmarks such as the Taj Mahal, a tiger sanctuary and Jaipur, the famous “pink city” with its elegant Amber Fort.

Sup with former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana and his star friends in an NFL weekend at Casa Piena, the mountainview hideaway tucked into Carmen

Policy Estate Vineyard in California.

Or perhaps you’d prefer the company of “Mr. Big,” the enigmatic suitor of “Sex and the City” — actor Chris Noth.

Noth — the off-again, on-again interest of character Carrie Bradshaw in that show — also starred in the CBS series “The Good Wife” for its seven seasons, and he co-owns a star-powered music and dining venue, The Cutting Room, in New York, where winners will enjoy dinner with him.

Those are just a few of the auction lots officials an-

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Katrina Lundmark-Kash celebrates Jan. 30 at The Ritz-Carton Golf Resort after her bid at the Naples Winter Wine Festival won a safari trip.

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DAILY NEWS

Wine

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nounced Tuesday for Naples Winter Wine Festival 201, set for Jan. 27-29.

The festival has made its name on breathtaking auction prizes, having brought winners walk-on TV roles, a seat at the Cannes Film Festival and a first-edition Ferrari F12Berlinetta.

Those have competed with vintner-dream lots such as a six-bottle complete vertical of Château Mouton Rothschild and a collection of Krug vintage Champagnes, along with a private visit to its estate.

Among the auction lots outside direct wine offerings at the festival will be:

» A 24-day, around-the-world trip by private jet, touching down at major wonders such as the Serengeti Plain, the Great Barrier Reef, the Lost City of Petra, Machu Picchu, the Taj Mahal and the moai of Easter Island.

» A weekend in Napa Valley with former San Francisco 49ers owner and Hall of Fame member Eddie DeBartolo, along with other 49er Hall of Fame members such as Montana, Ronnie Lott, Steve Young, Jerry Rice and Charles Haley. It includes a dinner with the group at Casa Piena at the Carmen Policy Estate Vineyard, co-founded and -owned by the former 49ers president. Auction winners can say they played with the NFL pros — there's a bocce ball tournament with the players.

» A New York City TV-tops excursion, with VIP tickets to "Saturday Night Live," "LIVE with Kelly" and "The Today Show." It includes tickets to the opening of a new Broadway musical, "Anastasia," and lunch with CNBC's "Squawk Box" co-anchor Andrew Ross Sorkin.

» A private dinner for 24 people hosted



A vacation, with wining and dining along the Amalfi Coast of Italy, will be one of the Naples Winter Wine Festival lots.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



COREY PERRINE, NAPLES DAILY NEWS

The 2016 Rolls-Royce Dawn ultra-luxury sedan soft-top convertible was one of the hot auction items, valued at more than \$420,000, at the Naples Winter Wine Festival.

by the Duncan family of Silver Oak and Twomey Cellars, followed by a live performance by music crossover legend Darius Rucker (Hootie and the Blowfish, and Country Music Association new artist awardee) and a rare 6-liter bottle of 1986 Silver Oak Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. Additional bottles of the winery's top wines will signed by David R. Duncan and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Darius Rucker will entertain at a private dinner hosted by two vineyards in California as one of the auction lots for the Naples wine festival.

gifted to the winner.

» Trip by private jet to Italy's Amalfi Coast for two couples, with dinners at some of the region's Michelin-starred restaurants and a collection of the best Cabernet Sauvignons from Lokoya in Napa Valley.

Other lots include red-carpet walks at the Emmys, a stay at Cuvee's Vue de Rêves

villa in St. Barts, and more to be announced.

Valerie Boyd and Brian Cobb, two of the eight co-chairs, were in charge of auction lots this year, and Boyd says they found their fellow co-chairs and trustees their best resource for off-the-charts inspiration.

"We've got so much creativity in this group," she said. "Over three Sundays, we got together with the trustees and did three different brainstorming sessions. They started at 1 and ended at 5. After those three meeting we had ideas.

"They needed to be creative and they needed to be donated, because everything under the tent goes for the children," she emphasized.

"Then it was up to Brian and me. We took all their ideas, which were amazing. We went out, and started calling.

"I couldn't be happier where we are now," said Boyd. But, she added, "There are a lot more surprises in store."

"We are thrilled to provide yet another year of wine, travel, and luxury experiences available nowhere else in the world," said Cobb, via a news release. "It's a pleasure to work with such creative, dedicated donors who meet our guests' high standards while also selflessly contributing to the well-being of local children in need."

All the money raised at the Naples Winter Wine Festival auction will go to the Festival's founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation. NCEF annual grants since its founding in 2001 have raised more than \$146 million, providing more than 200,000 area children in need with services and resources.

Ticket packages are limited to 580 guests and start at \$10,000 per couple. For information, write to Barrett Farmer at barrett@napleswinefestival.com or call 239-514-2239.