

Chef-vintner pairings announced for event

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The pairing of chefs and vintners for the exclusive annual Naples Winter Wine Festival, announced Tuesday, could stir up an appetite among food and wine lovers of all persuasions. This year, vintners who will provide for its exclusive Friday dinners include names from Spain and Uruguay as well as France, Italy and the United States.

Among them are Argentina-born Francis Mallman, considered the authority on Patagonian fire cooking and who added El Fuego by Francis Mallman in Miami to his list of restaurants last year, as well as David Kinch, whose California restaurant, Manresa, just won its third Michelin star. The chef de cuisine, the festival's honored chef, previously announced, will be Wolfgang Puck.

"We have, I think, one of the most exciting lineups ever for chefs and vintners," said Jeff Gargiulo, one of the co-chairs for the Jan. 27-29 festival. "It's from both the breadth and the depth. I think we've got a diverse group of chefs and cuisines and vintners from many different places in world."

"The fact these wineries and the people of these wineries and the chefs come here to help out children is pretty amazing and gratifying," he said.

Next, of course, is the challenge of chefs and vintners, some of them countries away from each other, collaborating on their particular dinner.

The Naples Winter Wine Festival, founded in 2001, has raised more than \$146 million for its grant-making organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation. The foundation has awarded grants to more than 40 nonprofit organizations and estimates it has impacted the lives of more than 200,000 children.

Tickets, \$10,000 per couple, include participation for two in one of the vintners' dinners, a "kids' day" tour showing where the money is at work, the wine and luxury lots auction with luncheon and a final brunch. For information, call 239-514-2239 or visit www.napleswinefestival.com.

The chefs and vintners

The chefs and vintners chosen for vintner dinners at the 2017 festival are:

- » Wolfgang Puck of Wolfgang Puck Worldwide in Los Angeles, who is this festival's chef de cuisine with French vintners Sandrine Bégaud of Château Canon/Château Rauzan-Ségla, Bordeaux, and Louis-Michel Liger-Belair of Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair, Burgundy
- » Gerry Klaskala of Aria, in Atlanta, with Shari and Garen Staglin of Staglin Family Vineyard, Rutherford, California
- » Cassiede Dabney of The Barn at Blackberry Farm, Walland, Tennessee, with Anne-Caroline Biancheri of Anticura in Mendoza, Argentina and Ali and Charles Banks of Mayacamas Vineyards & Winery, Napa, California
- » Nancy Oakes of Boulevard Restaurant, San Francisco, with Barbara Banke of Lokoya, St. Helena, California
- » Ryan Hardy of Charlie Bird, New York, with Turid Hoel Alcaras of Château Haut-Brion in Bordeaux, France
- » David Féau of Wally's Beverly Hills in Beverly Hills, with Tim Mondavi of Continuum Estate, St. Helena, California, and Grace and Ken Evenstad of Domaine Serene, Dayton, Oregon
- » Angelo Auriana of Officine Brera, Los Angeles, with Elisabetta Gnudi of Borgo Scopeto & Caparzo, Tuscany, Italy, and Valerie & Jeff Gargiulo of Gargiulo Vineyards, Napa, California
- » Enrique Olvera of Pujol in Mexico City, with French vintners Dimitri Augenblick of Château Cos d'Estournel, Bordeaux, and Guillaume d'Angerville of Domaine Marquis d'Angerville, Burgundy Missy Robbins of Lilia in Brooklyn, New York, with Pierre Lurton of Château Cheval Blanc/Château d'Yquem in Bordeaux, France
- » Richard Reddington of REDD in Yountville, California, with Leslie and Rich Frank of Frank Family Vineyards, Calistoga, California, and Béatrice and Laurent Drouhin of Maison Joseph Drouhin, Burgundy, France
- » Michael Tusk of Quince Restaurant, San Francisco, with Ann Colgin and Joe Wender of Colgin Cellars, St. Helena, California
- » Colin Bedford of The Fearington House, Pittsboro, North Carolina, with Marilisa Allegrini of Allegrini, Valpolicella, Italy, and Pamela and George Hamel, Jr. of Hamel Family Wines, Sonoma, California
- » Dustin Valette of Valette, Healdsburg, California, with Daphne and Bart Araujo of Accendo Cellars, Napa Valley, California, and Piero Incisa della Rocchetta of Bodega Chacra, Patagonia, Argentina
- » David Kinch of Manresa Restaurant, Los Gatos, California with Gaia Gaja of GAJA, Piedmont, Italy
- » Dean Fearing of Fearing's, Dallas, with Shahpar and Darioush Khaledi of Darioush, Napa, California, and Peter Sisseck of Dominio de Pingus, Duero River Valley, Spain
- » John Minas of The Edison, Tallahassee, and Madaiah Revana of Revana Family Vineyard, St. Helena, California and Alexana Winery, Newberg, Oregon
- » Tom Colicchio of Crafted Hospitality, New York, New York, with Deborah and Bill Harlan and Will and Amanda Harlan of Harlan Estate, Oakville, California, and Olivier Krug of Krug Champagne, Champagne, France
- » Francis Mallmann of Bodega Garzón, Garzón, Uruguay; Alejandro Bulgheroni of Alejandro Bulgheroni Estate, Napa Valley, California; and David Duncan of Silver Oak Cellars, Oakville, California