

Time to Talk about Wine & Fine Spirits



by Sarah A.
Cart

Several of the best-loved traditions of All Charities Weekend (aka ACW; in 2022, **Feb. 11-13**) revolve around wine (and, notably fine spirits).

The traditions start the week before, with First Dibs opportunities to sign up for dinners curated by famous sommeliers and chefs. Then Friday evening, Wine Tasting & Silent Auction Showcase attendees cast votes for the Club's menus' Members Choice next season. Come Saturday night, Preferred Partner Magnolia Blossom Wines fills Gala attendees' stemware, and dozens of lots offered in the Silent Auction and several gaveled experiences are awarded, so that, come Sunday morning, winners arrange to collect their prizes (and perhaps rearrange the wine cellar or the liquor cabinet).

And because traditions are often expanded upon, new this year, the Friday evening element will include a Bourbon Tasting.

Whether you're a wine aficionado or just like an occasional glass of whatever's being poured, you are sure to find something to amuse your palate among the auction's offerings, from something to accompany a simple weekday meal to a few offerings that would otherwise be unattainable.

Ponder a 10-bottle vertical of Château Gruaud-Larose (per **Mike Jones**, ACW's 2022 wine guru, the lot, donated by **Brock Vinton**, is "an unusual and excellent wine donation of the best vintage years") ... or imagine savoring a neat sip



Those who know, know ... Feast your eyes on this bottle of late 1970s Old Weller Original 107 Barrel Proof ("rare and in impeccable condition") and prepare to raise your paddle come All Charities Weekend, Feb. 11-13. For the most tasteful results, start planning now to bid wisely, early, often and generously for a good cause (and a great reward). And if you enjoy bourbons, note that, new this year, the Friday evening Silent Auction Showcase will include a Bourbon Tasting.

(but for the enhancement of the slightest splash of spring water) of a nearly impossible-to-find antique bourbon that owes its creation to Pappy Van Winkle (possibly "the best bourbon you've ever tasted ... if you dare open it!" per donor **Bill Hinkebein**).

Curious to know more?

The classically produced Château Gruaud-Larose, with its blackberry, earth, cedar and leathery taste and smells, has always been cherished by Bordeaux devotees who will delight in this vertical of the finest vintages between 1975 and 1996 ('75, '78, '82, '83, '85, '88, '89, '90, '95, and '96). Plan to bid to win, then gather 20 of your closest friends for a rare tasting opportunity ... or just quietly enjoy each bottle, one by one.

If bourbon is more to your taste, Jones is also pleased to note "an exceptional and rare donation" of a Gold Vein bottle of Old Weller Original 107 Barrel Proof (see photo). While the legendary wheated distillation is created to this

day using Pappy's recipe at Buffalo Trace in Frankfort, KY, this particular bottle, with the original neckpiece, is from the late 1970s with label and tax stamp in very good condition.

Wines also feature in several lots to be auctioned live on Feb. 12, including a Mt. Veeder Magic Vineyards Experience high above Napa Valley, a six-person guided tour of France's Champagne region led by Ethan Dupree (who believes the magic of wine is an adventure within anyone's grasp), and closer to home, the Dom Perignon Golf Classic & Dinner in March.

The auction offers multiple other categories as well, from family-oriented adventures to sports, jewelry, culture, and more, close to home and around the world.

Perhaps the most beloved tradition of All Charities is that the monies raised empower the Ocean Reef Community Foundation to make financial grants to assist thousands of our neighbors in Key Largo, Homestead and Florida City. Over \$50 million has been donated since All Charities began in 2008. Additionally, a portion of the funds raised helps ensure the viability of the not-for-profit institutions important to Ocean Reef – the Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and Conservation Association.

Get ready to celebrate: In addition to the wine tasting and bourbon sipping that Friday night, ACW will include Burgers, Beers & Bidding compliments of the Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce and a NetJets display Saturday daytime before Saturday night's Live Auction, dinner and dancing.

Questions? Visit oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org or contact All Charities at 305-367-5996 or AllCharities@OceanReef.com. And when the time comes, let's everyone raise a glass to ACW 2022 while raising funds for a great cause.



BECOME AN ALL CHARITIES PATRON DONOR AND WIN A SUNSET CRUISE

Have you heard about this special opportunity to support the Ocean Reef Community Foundation's All Charities Gala Weekend as a Patron Donor? For only \$1,000 you can participate in this important event that supports many of the non-profit organizations at Ocean Reef as well as numerous charitable organizations in the surrounding communities. With your donation you will be helping the Medical Center, Cultural Center, Academy, Art League, ORCAT and the OR Conservation Association with their efforts to serve our community. At the same time you will be supporting the amazing work of so many charities outside the gates. Pick up a copy of The Link or visit our website at www.oceanreefcommunityfoundation.org (Grant Recipients page) to see a detailed list.

Knowing you are making a difference is often enough but with your minimum donation of \$1,000 you will be listed in the Ocean Reef Press as a Patron Donor following the event in February. In addition, all Patron Donors will be entered into a raffle and the lucky winner and seven of their closest friends or family will enjoy a sunset cocktail cruise. But this is not just any cruise. On April 26th you will board Preferred Partner Barton & Gray's 40' Hinckley docked in the Fishing Village. Enjoy a two hour cruise past The Point and celebrate another day's finale while watching the smoldering orange sun drop ever so slowly into the sea. Enjoy that cruise back under the stars knowing it's all for a good cause!

Contact the All Charities office to become a Patron Donor at 305-367-5996 or allcharities@oceanreef.com. The winner will be randomly drawn at the Friday night wine tasting on February 11th, 2022.