



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 37 YEARS

2017: Eleanor, Francis, Roman, Sofia and Gia Coppola, of Napa Valley and Hollywood fame, serve as honorary Auction chairs. Francis prepares the Live Auction Celebration dinner and soul singer-songwriter Leon Bridges performs at the After-Party. The Wine & Food Pavilions are introduced at the Napa Valley Barrel Auction and barrel bidding opens to the world online for the first time.

2016: Following in his father Agustin Huneeus's footsteps, Agustin F. Huneeus serves as honorary event chair. His father chaired the Napa Valley Wine Auction in 1996. Guest Chef Francis Mallmann cooks a "live fire" post-Auction dinner on the fairway at Meadowood over giant pits dug expressly for the event.

2015: John Legend performs his hit "All of Me" inside the Live Auction tent. For the first time, a group of winery employees – the Opus One Team – serves as honorary chairs.

2014: Total event fundraising breaks the record for the second year in a row at \$18.4 million. Electronic bidding application introduced for the Napa Valley Barrel Auction.

2013: Each of the event's three auctions – Live, Barrel and E– break new fundraising records and the event grand total soars to nearly \$17 million.

2012: Renowned Chef Emeril Lagasse headlines the Saturday night post-Auction dinner at Meadowood Napa Valley.

2011: For the first time in the event's history, heavy rain saturates the grounds at Meadowood Napa Valley, but doesn't dampen bidder spirits as Auction Napa Valley surpasses the \$100 million total giving milestone.

2010: Saturday's after-dinner musical headliners are the 1980s girl band, The Bangles.

2009: Thursday's opening night begins with a pseudo-armed robbery of the Napa Valley Wine Train by masked horsemen and women, organized by honorary chair Janet Trefethen.

2008: A star-studded Auction Napa Valley with guest appearances by Jay Leno, as the Live Auction's opening act, and Oprah Winfrey, who attends both the Napa Valley Barrel Auction and the Live Auction Celebration.

2007: Comedian Dana Carvey warms up the bidders at the Live Auction, not realizing when he makes a joke about Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi that her husband is in the audience. **2006:** American Idol host Ryan Seacrest serves as guest emcee of the Live Auction and Geena Davis attends to promote a lot featuring a walk-on appearance on her ABC show, "Commander in Chief."

2005 - The 25th Anniversary: The event name is changed from Napa Valley Wine Auction to Auction Napa Valley. Jay Leno opens the Live Auction with a comedy routine. The E-Auction is introduced, with all bids placed via electronic kiosks. Vintner camaraderie is showcased as all 24 previous chairs collaborate to plan and execute the event.

2004: Auction honorary chair Hugh Davies is rushed to the emergency room two hours prior to the Friday Night Gala after injuring his hand working on visuals for the evening's event. He returns with a bandaged hand in time to saber bottles of sparkling wine and greet guests as they arrive.

2003: In a surprise announcement just prior to the opening bid for Lot 90, honorary event chairs, the Trinchero family, announce they will augment the winning bid to reach \$1 million – making this the first million-dollar lot in the event's history.

2002: Lyle Lovett wows the crowd at the Friday Night Gala while still recovering from serious injuries after being gored by a bull a few weeks earlier.

2001: Robert Mondavi dresses as Vanna White, replete in evening gown, wig and lipstick, and commandeers a huge wheel for the "Spin the Bottle" lot.

2000: The Auction raises a record \$9.5 million as attendee Chase Bailey bids \$500,000 for a single six-liter bottle of 1992 Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon, smashing previous world records for the price paid for a single bottle of wine.

1999: Comedian Robin Williams makes surprise appearance as guest auctioneer during the Live Auction and helps drive up Auction proceeds. Giving is expanded from health care to include youth development and affordable housing nonprofits.

1998: With the weather report threatening rain, honorary chair Michaela Rodeno polls bidders whether to move the Saturday night dinner into the big tent or hold it in the meadow, as planned. The group votes unanimously to risk getting wet by not moving. Rain holds off until the very moment the party is scheduled to end at 10 p.m.

1995: Auction giving is expanded to include mental health services.

1994: The "Big Boards" are introduced at the Barrel Auction to put a novel and playful spin on bidding on barrel auction lots.

1989: The Auction Napa Valley Health Care Fund is established to provide a reserve for local nonprofits should the auction experience a shortfall or should a community health emergency arise.

1984: A few days before the Auction, the clubhouse at Meadowood burns to the ground and power and communications are disrupted. Auction committee members jump in to help, and the event goes on without a hitch.

1982: Performer Joel Grey entertains bidders and guests.

1981: Louis P. Martini serves as honorary chair of the first-ever Napa Valley Wine Auction, which raises \$141,000 for the two local hospitals. The barrel tasting is held outside at Meadowood, with the temperature over 100 degrees. Chuck Carpy gives vintners pouring at the barrel tasting an ice-cold six-pack of beer. Guests are treated to the unusual sight of pourers with wine in one hand and cold beers in the other. Next year, the barrel tasting is moved indoors.