

The logo for the High Museum of Art Atlanta, featuring the word "HIGH" in white, uppercase letters inside a red rectangular box.

HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA

1280 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. • ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GET READY FOR “THE BIG ONE”

High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction celebrates 25 years of wine, food and art

March 22–25, 2017, Green Lot at Turner Field

ATLANTA, Jan. 25, 2017 – Wine enthusiasts from around the world are invited to celebrate “The Big One,” the 25th year of the High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction (March 22–25, 2017). The Auction is the largest charity wine auction in the United States benefiting the arts, the 10th largest overall in 2015 according to Wine Spectator magazine, and the largest fundraising event for the High Museum of Art.

Proceeds from the Auction have amounted to more than \$26 million over the last 24 years and provide significant funding for the High’s exhibitions and educational programming. The Paddle Raise, which began in 2006, has contributed more than \$1.3 million to the High’s [Art Access](#) program, subsidizing visits to the Museum for more than 110,000 students across all grade levels and providing teachers with classroom resources.

Since launching in 1993, the Wine Auction has welcomed more than 12,000 guests to its signature events, where they have uncorked more than 60,000 bottles of the finest wines from more than 400 of the world’s top wineries. In addition, more than 100 chefs have offered their culinary creations to Auction attendees, including those from Atlanta’s most renowned restaurants.

“The High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction has put Atlanta on the map for winemakers and food and wine lovers alike,” said Steven Satterfield, chef and owner of Atlanta restaurant Miller Union and a longstanding supporter of the Auction. “In its 25th year, the Auction continues to grow and thrive, uniting restaurants and chefs with winemakers and producers to generate exciting, engaging events filled with great food, amazing wine and good vibes. As the dining scene in Atlanta has grown, we’ve seen the Auction flourish as well, contributing to the recognition of our regional strengths on the national level.”

Jasmine Hirsch of California’s Hirsch Vineyards said, “Participating in the Wine Auction has enabled us to support an incredible institution doing great work in the city of Atlanta, and it has also introduced our wines to the city’s fantastic community of wine collectors and members of the wine trade.”

Each year the Wine Auction selects a special guest of honor and special guest chef. For the 25th anniversary year, the Wine Auction has selected two Special Guests of Honor, Jim Clendenen and Michael Browne. Clendenen, who has been a supporter of the Auction since the inaugural event in 1993, is the owner and winemaker of Au Bon Climat, which he founded in 1982. Dedicated to Burgundian varietals, Au Bon Climat has cultivated an international reputation for its Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Gris. In addition to his Burgundian-focused Au Bon Climat winery, Clendenen established Clendenen Family Vineyards, which allows him to make artisan, small lots of distinctive wines from a wider spectrum of varietals. A supporter of the Auction since 2008, Browne is co-founder and winemaker for Kosta Browne Winery, which he launched in 1997 with his partner Dan Kosta. Browne's passion for wine started in the restaurant business, where he worked for 15 years before following his dream of becoming a winemaker.

“We’ve been coming to the High’s Wine Auction for almost 10 years now. Over that time we’ve made many new friends and are delighted to have seen the event grow into one of the premier wine auctions in the country. It is an honor and a privilege to continue to be a part of this great community, and we are thrilled to be a major part of the 2017 celebrations!” said Browne.

The Special Guest Chef for the 2017 Auction is Chris Hastings, owner and executive chef of Hot and Hot Fish Club in Birmingham, Ala. Hastings is distinguished as the 2012 winner of the James Beard Award for “Best Chef in the South.”

Vicki Palefsky, a supporter of the Wine Auction since 2006, and Alessandra Potts, owner of the wine storage business Vine Vault and a supporter of the Auction since 2010, are the co-chairs for the 2017 Auction.

“We are so grateful to Mrs. Palefsky and Mrs. Potts for their support of this year’s events, which mark a major milestone for the Auction,” said Steven Hargrove, Wine Auction manager. “We are honored to welcome our esteemed special guests, who are longtime friends, and we are thankful for the support of our amazing volunteer committee, benefactors and generous corporate sponsors. We hope this will be our most successful year yet.”

“Since its inception 25 years ago, the High’s Wine Auction has been instrumental in supporting the Museum’s growth and impact,” said Rand Suffolk, the High’s Nancy and Holcombe T. Green, Jr., director. “Funds raised through this signature event continue to fuel mission-driven objectives including exhibitions, reduced admission fees and a wide range of educational programs. We’re honestly humbled and grateful for such ongoing investment in our efforts.”

Wine Auction Week officially begins March 22 and continues through March 25. The 2017 weekend events will take place in tents in the Green Lot at Turner Field. The week’s festivities include:

- Ladies Luncheon – March 22: This ladies-only event features a luxurious meal at the award-winning restaurant Bacchanalia, followed by the opportunity to shop the boutiques of the Westside Provisions district.

- Gents Lunch – March 22: The gents have a party of their own featuring a delicious lunch and flowing wine at the automotive boutique Motor Car Collection.
- Dine Around Dinners – Week of March 22: Some of the world’s best winemakers partner with Atlanta’s top chefs in their restaurants to develop one-of-a-kind, way-off-the-menu, multi-course meals with wine pairings.
- Tasting Seminars – Week of March 22: Hosted at local venues, seminars cover topics handpicked by winemakers and sommeliers and feature some of the world’s highest-rated and most distinctive wines.
- Winemaker Dinners – March 23: Some of Atlanta’s most renowned chefs pair up with guest chefs from around the country as well as visiting winemakers. These incredible dinners take place in some of the most beautiful homes in Atlanta.
- Friday Fête and After Party – March 24: Inside the tents at Turner Field, guests will mix and mingle with winemakers, place bids on the impressive Silent Auction lots and enjoy a meal prepared by the Special Guest Chef. After dinner, the band kicks in, and the shoes come off. Attire is cocktail casual—a jacket is requested, but no tie is required.
- Vintners’ Reception and Live Auction – March 25: The weekend concludes with the main event in the tents at Turner Field, featuring wine tastings from many of the world’s top wineries, samples from dozens of Atlanta’s best restaurants and the opportunity to bid on the best in wine, travel and food experiences.

Prior to the week of March 22, the Auction will bring back a popular event from years past: the Secret Cellars Tours (Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017). These exclusive events welcome only 100 guests for the opportunity to explore some of Atlanta’s most prestigious wine cellars in private homes.

For more information, visit www.atlanta-wineauction.org.

The Wine Auction is pleased to announce the following corporate sponsors: Presenting Sponsor Delta Air Lines, Grand Cru Sponsor Merrill Lynch, Friday Fête Sponsor JLL and 25th Anniversary Sponsors BB&T and Wells Fargo.

High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction

Founded in 1993, the High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction is the largest fundraising event for the High Museum of Art. The Wine Auction is the top charity fundraising event in Atlanta, the 10th largest charity wine auction in the United States according to Wine Spectator magazine, and the No. 1 charity wine auction benefiting the arts. Proceeds generated by the Auction, which have amounted to more than \$26 million over the last 24 years, provide a significant source of funding for the Museum’s exhibitions and educational programming. Proceeds help to make possible special exhibitions and partnerships, and the Auction also provides funds for dynamic youth education programs, which draw more than 65,000 schoolchildren to the High each year. For more information, visit www.atlanta-wineauction.org.

About High Museum of Art

The High is the leading art museum in the southeastern United States. With more than 15,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High Museum of Art has an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American art; a substantial collection of historical and contemporary decorative arts and design; significant holdings of European paintings; a growing collection of

African American art; and burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, photography, folk and self-taught art, and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists. Through its education department, the High offers programs and experiences that engage visitors with the world of art, the lives of artists and the creative process. For more information about the High, visit high.org.

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