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WineaPAWlooza

A passion for wine brings together passionate animal advocates to raise money for a rescue ranch in Napa Valley.

If there's anything Napa Valley vintners love more than their vines, it's their pets. And some of the Valley's most prestigious wine-making icons participated in full force at this year's WineaPAWlooza fundraiser benefiting Jameson Animal Rescue Ranch (JARR). Founded in June 2014 by David and Monica Stevens, proprietors of 750 Wines, JARR is a no-kill rescue and sanctuary for companion and farm animals in need of transitional and permanent shelter, adoption, and rescue services.

This year, the Stevens teamed up with Gamble Family Vineyards, who played host to some 300 guests for the third annual charity event that included a grand tasting, live auction, and a live concert.

Vintners for JARR

"WineaPAWlooza allows us to share the passion we have for those creatures who live only to love, and ask for so little in return," says Tom Gamble, whose beautiful Oakville vineyards provided a magnificent backdrop for the event.

The affair kicked off with a tasting of wines and food pairings provided by 50 participating wineries and restaurants, all of whom donated both their talents and their time for the cause. As the tasting came to a close, a parade of adoptable pets and farm animals (including a pair of adorable goats) led the guests to the main tent where auctioneer Fritz Hatton proceeded to charm the crowd.

This year's WineaPAWlooza auction lots lived up to their reputation, helping raise over \$1,750,000, which more than doubled the total funds raised from the 2014 and 2015 events combined. Perhaps the most coveted lot featured Napa legends Andy Beckstoffer

and Russell Bevan that was auctioned to two bidders for \$150,000 each. Beckstoffer generously gifted his finest grapes from the Las Piedras Vineyard, which then will be crafted into wine by Bevan, a famed 100-point winemaker.

Other popular auction items included a few exclusive wine experiences, vacations, and, of course, some of the finest



wines and rarest double magnums with legendary labels like Colgin, Harlan Ovid, Scarecrow, Araujo, Shafer, Dana, and even a 1998 Screaming Eagle double magnum donated by founder Jean Phillips.

"So many individuals contributed their heart and soul, as well as time and effort, to make WineaPAWlooza 2016 off-the-charts spectacular," says JARR

co-founder Monica Stevens. "I am incredibly humbled by the generosity of Napa Valley and our big-hearted guests and volunteers."

The evening ended with a live concert by Wristrocket topped off by celebratory fireworks. "It was an unforgettable evening," says Stevens, who hopes JARR's efforts in collaboration with other animal rescue groups will help end hunger, cruelty, and overpopulation. "This will go incredibly far to help the animals and the cause."

The monies raised are already earmarked to help build JARR's vision for a cage-free rescue and sanctuary to better serve the physical and emotional needs of all of its companion and farm animal residents. Renowned architect Howard Backen of Backen, Gillam & Kroeger Architects, whose creative genius is behind the design of such impressive resorts as Meadowood and Cordevalle, and Tim McDonald of Centric Construction are leading the building and design team for the project. Barring any permitting or construction setbacks, the team expects a mid-2018 completion date for what will be a truly state-of-the-art animal sanctuary.

Perhaps Tom Gamble, who shares the Stevens' passion for animals, sums up the heartfelt efforts best by noting, "We merely save their lives. They save our souls." ♦ —JILL LAYMAN

To learn more about JARR, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, visit www.jamesonanimalrescueranch.org.

