

Auction of Washington Wines Raises \$1.95 Million

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The 20th annual Auction of Washington Wines (AWW), held last week in Woodinville, Washington surpassed earlier auctions in revenues and attendance, raising \$1,950,000 for uncompensated care at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle and the Washington Wine Education Foundation.

AWW encompassed three days of fundraising events. More than 1,000 people attended the August 16th Picnic with the Winemakers and Barrel Auction. Friday's Winemaker Dinners hosted a record 500 guests at 12 dinners. A new event this year, the Saturday morning Covey Run 10K Race and Smartwater Family Fun 5K Run & Walk, attracted 900 participants from 13 states. The evening Gala Auction Peacock Ball greeted over 600 guests, who bid on live and silent auctions, while partaking in six-course dinner prepared by the region's top chefs, accompanied by superb Washington wines.

The Auction of Washington Wines is the primary fundraising event of the Washington State wine industry, and it is one of the top wine charity auctions in the country. Over 200 Washington State wineries contributed to AWW events in the form of fine wines, volunteer personnel and wine-related experiences donated as live and silent auction items. Auction events were carried out with the assistance of more than 250 community volunteers.

"Washington State vintners and growers are committed to giving back to the community, and the best example is the Auction of Washington Wines," Ted Baseler, President and CEO of Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, and this year's co-chairman said in a news release. "This year's auction was a huge success. Items generously donated by winemakers and growers went for strong bids by donors committed to helping Children's Hospital and the Washington Education Foundation."

Each year the Auction honors two of its own for their outstanding contributions to the Washington wine industry. Ted Baseler and auction co-chair Tod Leiweke, CEO, Seattle Seahawks, recognized wine grape grower Bill denHoed of Vigneron Management LLC and winemaker Brian Carter of Brian Carter Cellars for their leadership in the industry.

For more information on the Auction of Washington Wine events, see www.auctionofwashingtonwines.org.