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WINE PRESS

Napa Valley Wine Press: Wine community to host, support Vida OLE fundraiser

FOR THE REGISTER

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This year's Premiere Napa Valley was a hybrid in-person/virtual event.
Alexander Rubin Photography for Napa Valley Vintners

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Vida OLE, the annual fundraising event benefiting Napa County's network of community health centers that provides health care to Napa's essential workers, returns in June.

OLE Health Foundation Board of Directors announced the multi-day fundraiser will be held at different Napa Valley locations June 27-29.

An all-inclusive Weekend Pass is \$1,750, and tickets to the Vida OLE Dinner & Auction are \$1,000.

“For more than 50 years, the most vulnerable members of our Napa Valley community have relied on ‘Clinic OLE,’ as they still call it, for access to high-quality, bilingual health care,” said Naoko Dalla Valle, OLE Health Foundation Board Chair. “Without the support of this community, more than one-quarter of our friends and neighbors in Napa would go without health care. This weekend celebrates and raises money for this work and the essential workers who make Napa Valley a world-class wine region and travel destination.”

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Vida OLE kicks off on Thursday, June 27, with the invitation-only Visionaries Luncheon to honor and recognize those whose support over the past five decades has played a key role in fulfilling CommuniCare+OLE's mission to ensuring quality health care for everyone who lives and works in Napa Valley. Last year, vintner Rick Jones

was honored with the inaugural John Shafer Visionary Award for his unwavering support of the OLE Health Foundation and his dedication to promoting access to health care in Napa Valley. This year's recipient will be announced in April.

On Friday, June 28, a series of intimate vintner dinners will be held at some of the most celebrated wineries in Napa, including Dana Estates, Darioush, and Stony Hill. Each will also feature stories from CommuniCare+OLE's providers who serve on the front line caring for our community's farmworkers, essential workers, senior citizens, children, and other vulnerable populations.

On Saturday, June 29, Sullivan Rutherford Estate will host the centerpiece of the weekend, a dinner and auction. Sullivan's sumptuous wines will generously flow and be paired with a curated three-course dinner highlighting the flavors of the season. Noted auctioneer Fritz Hatton will lead a lively auction of intriguing lots consisting of once-in-a-lifetime experiences, luxurious getaways, sporting excursions, memorable dinners, rare wines, and more. The evening will conclude with an energetic concert where attendees can kick up their heels and dance the night away under the stars.

Last year's event raised a record-setting \$1.7 million to help fund Napa-based initiatives that cover expenses for patients unable to pay for their care, support expansion of nonprofit community health centers, and provide mobile health services for vineyard workers. Money raised this year will support expanded services and health centers in Napa County to meet the ever-increasing demand.

Vida OLE is sponsored by American Ag Credit, Bank of Marin, Dalla Valle Vineyards, Dana Estates, Darioush, Exclusive Resorts, J.P. Morgan, Loco Tequila, Mechanics Bank, Stony Hill Vineyards, Sullivan Rutherford Estate, and The Doctors Company. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [**olehealth.org/auction**](https://olehealth.org/auction).

Premiere Napa Valley wine auction is open

The Premiere Napa Valley live wine auction will be held Saturday, Feb. 24, but online bidding is open for the virtual auction.

While in person attendance is sold out, registration is still open for the virtual auction and members of the wine trade can bid from anywhere in the world on Premiere Napa Valley wines, according to a press release from Napa Valley Vintners, which hosts the event.

Winemakers craft their best and most special wines for Premiere Napa Valley. Lot sizes range from 60 to 240 bottles total, making these Napa Valley's rarest commercially available wines.

"Some of the world's greatest and most sought-after wines come from Napa Valley," said Nick Pegna, Sotheby's Global Head of Wine & Spirits, who oversees the auction. "Premiere Napa Valley exemplifies this with an offering that showcases the highest quality from inspired and innovative winemakers. It is a privilege for Sotheby's to present these exceptional and rare Napa Valley wines to the international wine trade."

Premiere Napa Valley is an opportunity for today's winemakers to innovate and collaborate on wines, according to the Napa Valley Vintners. Of note at this year's auction are 12 joint-winemaker lots.

"Working with multiple winemakers on a Premiere Napa Valley lot is personally and professionally rewarding," said Steve Reynolds, owner and winemaker of Reynolds Family Winery. "It's a great opportunity to share ideas and learn about one another's approach. It also makes for a truly unique wine that you can get nowhere else. It's exciting that so many winemakers are taking the opportunity to work together at this year's auction."

To learn more, visit **premierenapavalley.com**.

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