

Big Bottle Silent Auction

LOT BB01

Merlot by Matanzas Creek

Donated by Friends of A Night for Sight

(1) 3.0 L 2004 Matanzas Creek Merlot, Bennett Valley-Sonoma

Soft and supple, yet well-structured, with plum and anise aromas and blackberry, herb and toasty spice flavors that linger toward a pretty finish. Drink now through 2010; even longer in the double magnum size. (WS 89).

LOT BB02

Big Bogle Petite Sirah

Donated by Friends of A Night for Sight

(1) 3.0 L 2005 Bogle Petite Sirah, California

Big nose of red fruit, currents and blueberry. On the mouth, hints of blueberry, a smokiness, and some chocolate. Firm tannins on the finish will help it stand up to hearty foods and sauce. (CT)

LOT BB03

Frogs Leap Zinfandel

Donated by Frogs Leap Winery

(1) 3.0 L 2000 Frog's Leap Zinfandel, Napa Valley

This large format will outlast those 750ml bottles. Very nice; not in your face, lighter in style at this point, very good food wine and could have gone with any food without overpowering. (CT 89)

LOT BB04

Sumptuous California Sparklings

Donated by Schramsberg & Domaine Carneros

(1) 1.5 L 2004 Domaine Carneros Brut Sparkling Wine, Carneros

(1) 1.5 L 2006 Schramsberg Blanc de Blancs Methode Champenoise, North Coast

A delightful pairing of two Napa Sparkling favorites:

Schramsberg: The Schramsberg style of Blanc de Blancs is dry and crisp. Small lots of malolactic- and barrel-fermented wines are added for complexity. The wine is aged on the yeast lees in the bottle for about two years prior to disgorgement. With its vibrant, fruitful and crisp nature, this sparkling wine will maintain its freshness, structure and refined finish for many years, even decades following its initial release.

Domaine Carneros: Appealing aromas of Gala apple, toasted almond and vanilla lead to focused, creamy Asian pear and spice flavors that finish with a vibrant crispness. (WS 89)

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LOT BB05

Tremendous California Reds

Donated by Hanna Winery, Cuvaision Estate Wines & Geoffrey and Benora Gladstone

- (1) 1.5 L 1998 McKenzie Mueller Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley
- (1) 1.5 L 1999 Hanna Merlot, Alexander Valley-Sonoma
- (1) 1.5 L 2006 Cuvaision Cabernet Sauvignon, Mt. Veeder - Napa Valley

1999 Hanna Merlot: Dazzling from the start, with fresh herb flavors, picking up ripe and concentrated black currant, plum and plenty of toasty oak character. Richness lingers, along with ripe tannins. (WS, CT 90).

1998 McKenzie-Mueller Cabernet Sauvignon: Deeply colored with some black fruit and currant characteristics. Lively, spicy aroma from the Malbec and Cabernet Franc additions. (winery) With lamb steak and roasted potatoes. This wine has aged nicely had a rich red color with a balance of fruit and tannins. (CT)

2006 Cuvaision Cabernet Sauvignon: Color: Intense opulent ruby tones. Nose: Blackberry, boysenberry, cocoa and a hint of sage. Palate: Jammy fruit with pure flavors of cassis and a touch of toasted oak. (Laurenti Wines)

LOT BB06

Don't be afraid of this Rattlesnake

Donated by John Marasco

- (1) 1.5 L 2005 Barnett Rattlesnake Hill Cabernet Sauvignon, Spring Mtn Dist-Napa Valley

Super ripe, though balanced and richly flavored, with tiers of succulent currant, wild berry and blackberry fruit that's broad, expansive, intense and persistent. This is still a bit chunky. Best from 2010 through 2016. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 450 cases made. (WS)

LOT BB07

1st Honorary Vintner Scott Harvey 3 L

Donated by Scott Harvey

- (1) 3.0 L 2006 Scott Harvey Wines & Vineyards Zinfandel, Mountain Selection, Amador County

A lovely donation from one of our 2002 Honorary Vintners, the 2005 Zinfandel features beautiful purple/ruby color, so saturated and pure. The nose is sensual from the get-go, with soft licorice, pipe tobacco, and incredibly rich berries - mostly strawberry and black raspberry. The palate offers more of the same rich fruit, with wave after wave of gorgeously pure fruit, a cacophony of flavors and textures wrapped in firm and grippy tannins - just incredible. Superlative. (CT 92)

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LOT BB08

Far Niente & Signorello Magnums

Donated by Signorello Vineyards & Far Niente Winery

- (1) 1.5 L 2005 Signorello Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley
- (1) 1.5 L 2007 Far Niente Chardonnay, Napa Valley

Two beautiful magnums from two of our favorite wineries - Far Niente, host of A Night for Sight Founder Dr. Frank Nesi's 60th birthday dinner and Signorello, a 2007 Honorary Vintner.

2007 Far Niente Chardonnay: A full-blown style, this is tightly wound, with plump peach and pear fruit flavors that are nicely shaded in lightly toasted oak. Persistent, concentrated, but finely detailed on the palate, this is medium to full bodied, but nicely balanced for the style. Long finish that slowly reveals tangerine and butter notes. (CT 91)

2005 Signorello Cabernet Sauvignon: Bold, rich and concentrated. Well-crafted, offering an intense, full-bodied mix of spice, mineral, currant and blackberry fruit that's deep, concentrated, focused and persistent, ending with a long, full, tannic and structured finish. Best from 2010 through 2017. (WS 92)

LOT BB09

In Honor of Steltzner Vineyards

Donated by Michael and Debra Jett

- (1) 1.5 L 2003 Steltzner Cabernet Sauvignon, Stags Leap-Napa Valley

A wonderful Cab by one of our 2009 Honorary Vintners and donated by longtime supporters Mike and Debra Jett ~ The 2003 Steltzner Cabernet Sauvignon is lovely with black fruit aromas. On the palate there's blackberry and blueberry flavors with a richness and elegance. This is a world-class Cabernet that shows much restraint despite a substantial backbone of fine-grained tannins for long-term aging. Drink it over the next 20 years. Dick Steltzner sources its fruit from its own vineyard. The wine spent 20 months aging in French oak. This bottle is signed by winemaker, Tim Dolven.

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LOT BB10

Trio of Bordeaux Magnums for 3 Dinner Parties

Donated by Richard and Janna Bull

- (1) 1.5 L 1995 Château Duhart-Milon, Pauillac
- (1) 1.5 L 1998 Château Pitray, Côtes du Castillon
- (1) 1.5 L 2000 Château Talbot, Saint Julien

This trio of lovely Bordeaux magnums were donated by generous donors, Richard & Jana Bull.

2000 Château Talbot: Beautiful aromas of raspberries, Indian spices, crushed flowers and berries. Full-bodied, with a solid core of ripe fruit and silky tannins. Long and delicious. A very fine and pretty wine. Best Talbot in years. (WS 93)

1998 Château Pitray: From the good 1998 vintage. Shows ripe fruit with cherry and raspberry flavors and silky tannins. It has a lovely smooth finish. (Vintage Wine Gifts UK)

1995 Château Duhart Milon: Made from a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon/20% Merlot, the 1995 is slightly sweeter, more supple and slender than the broader-shouldered 1996. The wine's bouquet offers aromas of ripe berry fruit intermixed with minerals, toasty oak, and spice. Medium-bodied, with fine extract, it is a finesse-styled Pauillac (in the best sense of the word). (WA 93)

LOT BB11

Huge Celebration of Diamant Magnums

Donated by Mary France Oudin and Jean-Jacques Fertal

- (6) 1.5 L 2005 Château des Karantes Diamant des Karantes, Coteaux du Languedoc La Clape

A big, strapping red, with plenty of powerful red plum and berry flavors as well as some beefy notes. Finishes ripe, with lots of iodine and smoke. Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre. (WS 89)

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LOT BB12

Three Distinguished Magnums

Donated by Robert and Meribah Bodack

- (1) 1.5 L 1977 Graham's Vintage Port
- (1) 1.5 L 2003 Frazier Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley
- (1) 1.5 L 2003 Martinelli Reserve Pinot Noir, Russian River

A lovely trio of Magnums from longtime A Night for Sight patrons and donors, Bob and Meribah Bodack.

1977 Grahams Vintage Port: Outstanding quality. Medium ruby-red. Aromas of milk chocolate, plum, mint and violet. Full-bodied, with medium sweetness and lots of berry and cherry fruit. Very fruity and fresh. Long and lively. Delicious now, but will improve. Drink now through 2018. (WS 91)

2003 Martinelli Reserve Pinot Noir: Fleshy, ripe and concentrated, with layers of plum, black cherry and raspberry fruit that's well-centered and deftly balanced. The long, rich, persistent finish keeps the fruit at the forefront. (WS 92)

2003 Frazier Cabernet Sauvignon: Beautiful dark purple inky color, deep musty nearly leathery smell, subtle smooth tannins, very full mouth feel, well rounded acids, hints of dark chocolate. (CT 93)

LOT BB13

Exotic Sassicaia

Donated by John and Nancy Vesper

- (1) 1.5 L 2000 Tenuta San Guido Sassicaia, Bolgheri

This beautiful from generous, longtime donors and patrons, John & Nancy Vesper. Shows its class. Loaded with fruit. Rich yet balanced, with lots of jammy and plummy character. Full-bodied, with round tannins and a silky finish. Exotic. Sass made excellent wine again in a less than easy year. (WS 93)

LOT BB14

Signorello Big Daddy

Donated by Michael and Jan Faultersack

- (1) 3.0 L 2001 Signorello Padrone, Napa Valley

This beautiful bottle of Signorello was donated by longtime patrons, Michael & Jan Faultersack. Lovely big bottle from longtime supporters in honor of 2007 Honorary Vintner. Good intensity and focus, with ripe, firm, complex black cherry, wild berry and raspberry scents that are framed by solid, chewy tannins that beg for short-term cellaring. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from now through 2012. (WS,CT 91)

Big Bottle Silent Auction

LOT BB15

Founder's Big Bottle Honoring Pride Mountain

Donated by Frank and Karen Nesi

(1) 3.0 L 2005 Pride Mountain Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, Etched and Signed

From our founder, in honor of Honorary Vintner Pride Mountain ~ Popped and poured. The nose is still opening. Dark color. Big fruit on the entry. Big mid-palate and very long finish. Really delicious. There is not as much oak as I recall in earlier years, and also less heat. In fact, I was struck by the impression that this was cool climate Cab. It is quite young, but not too young. Very impressive Cab. (CT 95)

LOT BB16

Terrabianca Campaccio Signed Big Bottle

Donated by Roberto Guldener

(1) 3.0 L 1996 Terrabianca Campaccio, Toscana

Our special thanks to Roberto Guldner, winemaker and 2006 Honorary Vintner, for this lovely Terrabianca. The 1996 Campaccio (a blend of Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon) reveals a saturated ruby/purple color, muscular, full-bodied, moderately tannic, black cherry and currant flavors, zesty underlying acidity, and a tight, compressed personality requiring another year to unfold. Drink it over the next 10-12 years. (WA 89)

LOT BB17

Dominus Estate 3L

Donated by Eugene and Lois Miller

(1) 3.0 L 1998 Dominus Estate, Napa Valley

Earthy, elegant and refined Cabernet blend, delivering layers of currant, tar, black cherry, cedar, coffee and anise, all sharply focused and framed by just the right amount of tannin. (WS 91)

Big Bottle Silent Auction

LOT BB18

A Herd of Large Elk

Donated by Geoffrey and Benora Gladstone

- (1) 1.5 L 2002 Elk Cove Vineyards Roosevelt Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, Oregon
- (1) 1.5 L 2003 Elk Cove Vineyards Roosevelt Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, Oregon
- (1) 1.5 L 2004 Elk Cove Vineyards Roosevelt Pinot Noir, Willamette Valley, Oregon

From our 2003 Chairs in honor of our 2007 Honorary Vintner, Elk Cove.

2002: Has a sense of elegance as the cherry and raspberry flavors mingle with floral, peppery notes and a veil of chewy tannins. The fruit wins in the end (WS 91)

2003: Seamless, harmonious, with pure plum and blueberry fruit wrapped in a veil of fine tannins, shaded beautifully with hints of apricot, cream and dusky spice. This one exudes class. (WS 91)

2004: Velvety, round and generous with its red plum, black currant and creamy spice flavors. A beautifully built, refined Pinot that lasts and lasts on the pointed, focused finish. (WS 91)

LOT BB19

A Trio of Château de Sales Magnums

Donated by Friends of A Night for Sight

- (3) 1.5 L 2000 Château de Sales, Pomerol-Bordeaux

The finest De Sales since the 1982 (probably better), the deep ruby/purple-colored 2000 boasts sweet aromas of soil, kirsch liqueur, raspberries, and currants. Layered and opulent, with sweet tannin and medium to full body, it is atypically large-scaled for a wine from this estate. (WA 89)

LOT BB20

Huge Silver Oak

Donated by Silver Oak Cellars

- (1) 3.0 L 2004 Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

This beautiful 3.0 L of Silver Oak Cabernet is fresh and vibrant, with a nice smoky mocha oak overlay joining the dried currant, sage, plum and berry flavors. Has wonderful balance, harmony and finesse, ending with a long, complex finish and just the right amount of tannins. (WS 89)

Big Bottle Silent Auction

LOT BB21

Ravenswood Bordeaux Blend

Donated by Ravenswood

(1) 3.0 L 2002 Ravenswood Pickberry Bordeaux Varietal, Sonoma Mountain

The 2002 Pickberry is dark in color with deep, sensual, dark cherry, dark berry, black plum, mocha and vanilla aromas. With its complex, full, round, layered texture, it coats the palate with intoxicating flavors of black plum, cassis, currants, spice and toast. This wine is built to last well into the next decade. Tannins are softening, 81% merlot, and the 19% cab gives it a bit of backbone.. and the rich cassis and raspberry fruits are nicely balanced. Doing well in the bottle, long life ahead (CT 90)

LOT BB22

Two Gorgeous Magnums

Donated by James and Barbara Karchon & Evan and Nickole Black

(1) 1.5 L 1985 Château L'Arrose, St. Emillion-Bordeaux

(1) 1.5 L 1998 Heitz Cellars Martha's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

A pairing of beautiful magnums from long-time patron, James Karchon and 2004 Chairs Dr. & Mrs. Evan Black.

1985 Château L'Arrose: Nose: nice evolved nose of cedar, herbs, currants, red cherries, red fruits, along with bits of leathery tones and some small berries. Lovely and balanced with a nice purity. Taste: good balanced attack of cedar, fresh herbs, red cherries and a bit of small berry tones. Good medium feel that is very well resolved. Overall: a really good, aged St Emilion. Very nice aromatics. Drinking fine and should hold well. (CT 90)

1998 Heitz Cellars Martha's Vineyard : Minty currant and cedary oak flavors precede a firm, dry, tannic Cabernet that is well-balanced with chewy cherry, plum and wild berry flavors. Best to decant an hour before serving. (WS)

LOT BB23

Stately 3 Liter Alexander Estate Cabernet

Donated by Alexander Valley Vineyards

(1) 3 L 2006 Alexander Valley Vineyards Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, Alexander Valley - Sonoma

In the glass, the 2006 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon exhibits aromas of plum and cassis, and flavors of black cherry and cocoa along with well-integrated tannins. As is customarily the case with the Alexander Valley Cab, it rewards right from the start but will certainly benefit from 5 to 7 years in the cellar. (avvwine.com)

Big Bottle Silent Auction

LOT BB24

A 3 Liter Celebration of Caymus

Donated by Judy Dunn

(1) 3.0 L 1991 Caymus Special Selection Cabernet, Napa Valley

The 1991 Napa Cabs have been favorites of both Napaphiles and Francophiles alike. The Spectator likes this one a lot. Healthy dark color, wonderful youthful vitality. Rich mocha, chocolate, black cherry and spice flavors, elegant and polished, with softening tannins and dusty, cedary oak adding dimension. Excellent balance.'81/'91 California Cabernet retrospective. In the 750 format, maybe ready to drink, but in the 3.0L format, this has cellar life ahead. (WS-94) Only 2,000 cases made making this a 1/3 case in one bottle. The release price was \$100 for a bottle, and about \$500 for this format and that was 15 years ago!

LOT BB25

Black Star Farms Large Format Pinots

Donated by Black Star Farms

(1) 3.0 L 2005 Black Star Farms Arcturos Pinot Noir Special Selection, Michigan

(1) 1.5 L 2006 Black Star Farms Arcturos Pinot Gris Special Selection, Michigan

A magnum and a 3.0L from one of 2009's (and 2007's) Honorary Vintners.

The Pinot Gris: From their 7 Hills Vineyard on the Old Mission Peninsula appellation and is crisp and refreshing with melon fruit and delicate floral notes. This is a superb grape for the expression of "terroir," displaying mild herbal and mineral accents on the palate. This is a tremendous food wine.

The 3.0L Pinot Noir: Medium bodied and has bright berry fruits (raspberry and cherry) and warm, toasty, French oak that entice the nose and palate. Layers of earthy, peppery aromas surround a core of ripe fruit, spice and dark scented flowers. With proper cellaring, this will reward the patient in ten plus years. The Pinot Noir provides a delicate and aromatic red-wine match for flavorful cheeses. Roast pork pairs well. Many game birds, pheasant and quail in particular with their rich earthy component, will benefit from the earthy yet fruity lightness of the Pinot Noir.

LOT BB26

Three Magnums of Hedges

Donated by Richard and Karen Brown

(3) 1.5 L 2006 Hedges Family Estate Syrah Red Mountain, Single Vineyard, Columbia Valley, Washington

The Hedges Family Estate 2006 Syrah Red Mountain, Single Vineyard is truly unique. This is from a batch of the only 6 cases of this Syrah in the world that were bottled in magnum. These were bottled by hand by Karen & Rich Brown and Leet and Patsy Denton at the Winery in Oct 06 and were signed by Tom and Anne-Marie Hedges and winemaker, Pete Hedges.

Big Bottle Silent Auction

LOT BB27

Salamanzar Hedges Family Estate

Donated by Richard and Karen Brown

(1) 9 L 2006 Hedges Family Estate Three Vineyards , Columbia Valley, Washington

From our patriarch of our wine selections, donations and scribes, this cabernet is the flagship of their estate wines, The Three Vineyards is a classic Red Mountain wine showing deep, dense color, firm yet supple tannins, and well defined acidity. The Three Vineyards is a blend of fruit from our three estate vineyards: Hedges Estate Vineyard, Bel'Villa Vineyard, and Red Mountain Vineyard. Always a majority blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this wine is suitable for drinking upon release but will also reward those with the patience to age it. (CT 90)

LOT BB28

Napa Cabernet Magnums for your Library

Donated by Trefethen Family Vineyards & St. Supéry Vineyards & Winery

(1) 1.5 L 2001 Trefethen Family Vineyards Library Selection Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

(1) 1.5 L 2003 St. Supéry Vineyards & Winery Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

2003 St. Supéry: Features fragrant strawberry and currant flavors are delicate and juicy, with coffee, toffee and cedar notes and firm tannins on a modest scale. Drink now. (WS)

2001 Trefethen Library Selection: Displayed a lot of heat when first opened, but really "Nosed" to the occasion. Lots of cedar, cherries, chocolate, very balanced after decanted. Wine should be good for 10 more years so. Well worth laying a few down for a few years. (CT 91)

LOT BB29

A Bevy of Qupé

Donated by Friends of A Night for Sight

(1) 3.0 L 2005 Qupé Syrah, Bien Nacido Hillside Estates

The 2005 Syrah Central Coast (20,000 cases produced) is a knock-out bargain for a Rhone Ranger offering. Dark ruby with loads of peppery berry fruit touched by roasted Provencal herbs, it possesses supple tannin, impressive purity and overall harmony, and a surprisingly long, layered finish. This beauty should drink nicely for 4-5 years. (WA 88)

Big Bottle Silent Auction

LOT BB30

Magnum Magnifico of Dunn

Donated by Fresh Farms Market

(1) 1.5 L 2005 Dunn Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

Randy Dunn makes the Château Latour of Napa -- maturity is several years off. So, cellar this large beauty and enjoy it on a special date in the future. The bottling includes up to 15% Cabernet from the valley floor, with the balance from the top of Howell Mountain. Dark garnet in color, has a big nose of minerals, blackberry, and graphite, followed by intense flavors of blueberry, cherry, currant, and a touch of licorice. This is a seamless, hedonistic wine, with a flamboyant personality, excellent purity, full-bodied, and with good tannins. We feel this is Randy's best Napa bottling in a decade!

LOT BB31

One Big Beautiful Beaulieu Cabernet

Donated by Michael and Jan Mnich

(1) 3.0 L 2005 Beaulieu Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Rutherford - Napa Valley

BV in a Big Volume size. Smooth and spicy, offering supple currant, black cherry, plum and hints of lavender. Delightful to drink now, with its supple tannins and complex range of flavors. Drink now through 2011 (WS). Drinking perfectly now and the tannins are perfect. Lots of fruit and Rutherford dust come through with hints of cocoa and pencil lead. Very, very good. (CT 90)