



CELEBRATING 10 AUCTIONS



In early 1987, the leadership of the Women's Board set out to achieve four important goals:

- * Engage the entire Women's Board in a project where they could work together and form lasting relationships and deep connection to Lyric Opera
- * Bring favorable, new, global media attention to the company, and its world-class productions
- * Create new audiences, donors, and friends of Lyric Opera
- * And, by the request of Ardis Krainik, net \$100,000 for the project (remember, this is 1987!)

All the membership plunged into the world of wine. One connection led to another, to another, and voilà! Robert Mondavi was our first honored guest. Michael Broadbent our first auctioneer. The high standard was set in style *and* substance (an astonishing \$218,000 was raised). The ladies never looked back. 25 years after the Wine Auction was born by these creative geniuses, their tradition of innovation and commitment to keeping it fresh and vital remains alive. Enjoy this walk through the history of the Lyric Opera Wine Auction, as told by the ladies who lived it.



l. to r.: Pat Ryan, Shirley Ryan, Margrit Mondavi, Robert Mondavi.



Sally Funderburg

1988

“After much focused thinking, the Women’s Board decided to have a Wine Auction. Marshall Field later told me that it was “the most original and creative fundraiser that he’d seen in Chicago in twenty years.” Dear Sally Funderburg, my immediate predecessor as Women’s Board President, offered to be Chairman of the event, and she and the extremely thorough Susan Oliver championed the invention of everything! We were all learning about wine as we went. Renée Crown offered to host a special dinner the night before the auction for all the people who were coming from out of town – a tradition which continues to this day. The esteemed Michael Broadbent was our auctioneer, and iconic American winemaker Robert Mondavi was most gracious, charming and above all generous as our Honored Guest. When I talked to a friend about sponsorship, he told me that he couldn’t provide underwriting, but that he would give us some great auction lots of something called “First Growths”... we quickly learned what a gift that was! Other dear friends filled the room.”

– SHIRLEY RYAN, PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN’S BOARD 1986-1988

HONORED GUEST OF WINE AUCTION 1988

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT MONDAVI

*Robert Mondavi Winery
Napa, California*

The late Robert Mondavi was considered the dean of California winemakers. Since the 1940s he had been responsible for many aspects of the California wine industry’s development. He established the Robert Mondavi Winery, which continues to produce some of California’s most acclaimed fine wines, and was also involved in such projects as the joint venture with the late Baron Philippe de Rothschild of Château Mouton-Rothschild to produce the famed Opus One.

CHAIRMAN: MRS. R. ROBERT FUNDERBURG

HONORED GUEST OF WINE AUCTION 1990

COMTE ALEXANDRE DE LUR SALUCES

*Previously Château d’Yquem,
currently Château de Fargues Sauternes, France*

Comte Alexandre de Lur Saluces is a direct descendant of the illustrious Lur Saluces and Sauvage families which previously owned two of the most important properties in the Sauternes-producing region of France, Château de Fargues and the legendary Château d’Yquem. Château d’Yquem, in a class by itself, is considered one of the finest, rarest and most exclusive of wines.

CHAIRMAN: MRS. JANE DUBOISE GARGIULO



Jane Gargiulo and Alexandre de Lur Saluces

1990

“Our honored guest in 1990 was Alexandre de Lur Saluces, a friend of Tubby Bacon’s. The Count donated various vintages of Chateau d’Yquem that were served with our luncheon and also with dinner the evening of the auction. Wine Auction 1990 was the first to take place on the stage of Lyric Opera, which was a beautiful setting then, and has been for all of the wine auctions to follow. Wine Auction 1990 was also the first year we accepted telephone bids. With the untiring help of the Women’s Board committees and the administrative support of the Lyric staff, the event was a glowing success and raised a significant amount of revenue for our beloved Lyric Opera.”

– JANE DUBOISE GARGIULO, CHAIRMAN

1992



“Monsieur et Madame Jean-Claude Rouzaud’s, from The House of Louis Roederer, five-day stay included, in addition to the Casino dinner and the Wine Auction, a television appearance, many luncheons and a performance of *The Marriage of Figaro* with Ardis Krainik as hostess for the evening. Michael Davis was co-auctioneer and valued advisor to the auction since the beginning, but this year he became lead auctioneer, great friend and absolutely indispensable to us. The Auction debuted “Twist and Shout” as its theme – courtesy of the wonderful people at Leo Burnett – and did we ever Twist and Shout that night! It’s an occasion which I will remember forever.”

- SUSAN OLIVER, CHAIRMAN



l. to r.: Susan Oliver, Madame Rouzaud, Jean-Claude Rouzaud

HONORED GUEST OF WINE AUCTION 1992

MONSIEUR ET MADAME JEAN-CLAUDE ROUZAUD

*House of Champagne Louis Roederer
Reims, France*

Monsieur et Madame Rouzaud are descendants of M. Louis Roederer, founder of Champagne Louis Roederer. Rouzaud serves as Chairman and CEO of Roederer, one of Champagne’s oldest and most respected family-run houses. Perhaps best known for “Cristal,” the exclusive Champagne originally commissioned by Tsar Alexander II for his court, Roederer maintains its preeminence through its extensive, varied vineyard holdings which provide almost all of its grape needs. This makes Roederer almost a “single property” Champagne, and unique in that respect.

CHAIRMAN: MRS. PAUL W. OLIVER, JR.



HONORED GUEST OF WINE AUCTION 1994

MONSIEUR ET MADAME JEAN-MICHEL CAZES

*Château Lynch-Bages
Pauillac, France*

Monsieur et Madame Cazes are part of the Cazes family, owners of Château Lynch-Bages since 1937. Many call Jean-Michel Cazes “Mr. Bordeaux,” some refer to him as “The Baron of Bordeaux” and he has even been crowned “King Cazes of Bordeaux.” As these unofficial titles indicate, Jean-Michel Cazes is esteemed throughout Bordeaux. Under his stewardship, Château Lynch-Bages was named Wine of the Year by *The Wine Spectator* in 1988.

CO-CHAIRMAN: MRS. LESTER CROWN, MRS. R. ROBERT FUNDERBURG



l. to r.: Ardis Krainik, Madame Cazes, Jean-Michel Cazes, Renée Crown

1994

“I stood in the empty foyer for forty-five minutes wondering if anyone else would brave the worst snow storm in Chicago history to attend the 1994 Wine Auction. For this auction, we had decided to build out over the orchestra pit to accommodate all the people who planned to attend, and I was so relieved when they finally arrived! I still remember fondly Jean-Michael Cazes and his wife from Château Lynch-Bages and the wines they offered for dinner; my co-chairman Sally Funderburg and I thought they were delightful.”

- RENÉE CROWN, CO-CHAIRMAN



Susan Oliver, Paolo Marzotto



Bill Mason, Nancy Searle

1997

“We had an “extra” year of preparation for this auction due to the renovation in the opera house, and it paid off in superior auction lots! The wines we offered were a mouthwatering array of collectible wines for a knowledgeable audience. We learned how to really tell the story of the auction through the lots. We had a third category of auction – the Super Silent – in order to highlight the most special items in the silent auction, and our Honored Guests, the Count and Countess Paolo Marzotto, were delightful. As the auction got bigger over the years, the auction support system “behind the scenes” transitioned completely for this fifth auction – some of the procedures created in 1997 are integral preparation for the event still today!”

- NANCY S. SEARLE, CHAIRMAN

HONORED GUEST OF WINE AUCTION 1997

COUNT AND COUNTESS PAOLO MARZOTTO

Santa Margherita S.P.A.

Bolzano, Italy

Count Gaetano Marzotto purchased the Santa Margherita Estate in 1935 and his fourth son, Paolo Marzotto, continued his father’s vision of experimentation and creativity, elevating Santa Margherita to one of the most highly-esteemed wineries in Italy. Using innovative techniques, Santa Margherita drew upon its creative resources to formulate its famous Pinot Grigio, now recognized as a classic among white wines. Three other great vineyards, two in the Tuscan Chianti Classico area and one in Lombardy, are also under the capable direction of Count and Countess Marzotto.

CHAIRMAN: NANCY S. SEARLE



HONORED GUESTS OF WINE AUCTION 2000

MADAME MAY-ELIANE DE LENCQUESAING

Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande France

May-Eliane de Lencquesaing became the owner and administrator of Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in 1978 and oversaw the management of the family domain. Under her leadership, the Château flourished, balancing technology and tradition, yet always respecting the spirit that created and guided the domain in the past.

MS. ZELMA LONG

Long Vineyards California

Zelma Long has charted a new direction for her winemaking career in the new millennium! In 1977 and 1998, she and her viticulturist husband, Dr. Phillip Freese, initiated two winegrowing joint ventures under the “umbrella” of Zelphi wines. In addition to Zelphi Wines, Ms. Long maintains cooperative management of, and structures the winemaking for, Vilaforte.

SIGNORA TERESA SEVERINI LUNGAROTTI

Cantine Lungarotti

Umbria, Italy

The Lungarotti Winery has built its reputation on a legacy of “firsts,” beginning with the creation of the Lungarotti Winery in 1962. Lungarotti’s Torgiano Rosso and Torgiano Bianco wines became the first in Umbria to achieve DOC status and were also one of the first DOCs to be granted in Italy. Today, she directs the production and communication sectors of the Lungarotti Winery, introducing dynamic innovations while remaining faithful to old traditions.

CHAIRMAN: MRS. JAMES J. O’CONNOR



l. to r.: Ellen O’Connor, Teresa Lungarotti, May-Eliane de Lencquesaing, Zelma Long

2000

“Onstage again. Covering the pit, again. Great wines, again. How to make it new? We invited three female Guests of Honor, each woman representing a separate wine region. “Vivace” was our theme – a musical term meaning “lively” – and our auction delivered! The life and breath of the auction remained our Lyric family, but some of the most interested buyers were unknown to us. They have since become good friends of the auction, and even better friends of Lyric Opera.”

- ELLEN O’CONNOR, CHAIRMAN

2003



l. to r.: Bonnie Pritchard, Piero Antinori, Alexia Antinori

“Marchese Piero Antinori was introduced to us by long time friend of Lyric Opera, Tony Terlato. My co-chairman, Nancy Brooker, and I embraced our theme, “Opera House Party”, which was chosen to connect the evening with our Honored Guest’s esteemed Estates of Antinori. Having heard the Marchese speak at a previous event, I knew he would inspire bidders to new heights. I insisted he speak before the Wine Auction dinner. Piero and his daughter, Alexia invigorated the evening when he said, “I hope you capture the wine of your dreams.” Right then, a new tradition was born of the Honored Guest making remarks before the dinner.”

– BONNIE PRITCHARD, CHAIRMAN

HONORED GUEST OF WINE AUCTION 2003

MARCHESE PIERO ANTINORI

Marchesi Antinori S.r.l.

Marchese Piero Antinori descends from a winemaking tradition that dates back to 1385. Today the Antinori name encompasses a large variety of estates, mostly concentrated in Tuscany and Umbria. The Marchese is among the visionaries credited with revitalizing Tuscan winemaking, helping to initiate an oenological revolution by coloring outside the regulatory lines set by the Chianti DOC. Sangiovese, the indigenous Tuscan grape, was blended with cabernet sauvignon to produce “Tignanello,” and thus one of the first “Super Tuscans” was born. His zeal for experimentation has brought international recognition to the Italian wine industry.

CO-CHAIRMAN: MRS. JAMES C. PRITCHARD, MRS. T. KIMBALL BROOKER

HONORED GUEST OF WINE AUCTION 2006

PRINCE AND PRINCESS ROBERT OF LUXEMBOURG

Châteaux Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion

His Royal Highness Prince Robert of Luxembourg and his family own two of the great red wine estates in Bordeaux, Château Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion. Their two limited-production white wines of Haut-Brion Blanc and Laville Haut-Brion are highly sought-out by connoisseurs worldwide. His Royal Highness Prince Robert of Luxembourg is a direct descendent of Henry IV. Today, his title at Domaine Clarence Dillon is Vice President and Managing Director.

CHAIRMAN: MRS. CHRISTOPHER C. MILLIKEN



l. to r.: Prince Robert and Nancy Milliken

2006

“This auction marked the first of our two Skrebneski covers – it was striking, and I loved it! There was enormous interest in online bidding, so we investigated that component. With our wonderful friends at Hart Davis Hart Wine Co., we successfully pioneered the concept of online charity wine auctions. A staunch supporter from the beginning, Stephen A. Kaplan arranged for our Honored Guest, who was a Prince, both literally and figuratively. The wines of Prince Robert of Luxembourg, owner of Haut-Brion and La-Mission-Haut-Brion, found very happy homes, and catapulted the net proceeds of the auction past the \$1 million mark. I can remember Susan Graham, the famous opera star, spontaneously offering a private recital to be sold in the auction. She walked around the stage singing Gershwin’s “Summertime” from *Porgy & Bess*. It was a magical evening.”

– NANCY MILLIKEN, CHAIRMAN



2009



l. to r.: Cathy Osborn, Pierre-Henry Gagey, Nancy Searle

“Thanks again to Stephen Kaplan, who invited his friend Pierre-Henry Gagey of Maison Louis Jadot to be our Honored Guest. We set out to fully utilize the internet in our promotional efforts of “What money cannot buy,” which was our mantra! Pre-auction bids gave us some breathing room, and the night of the event, we exceeded all expectations in a down economy. \$1.2 million net proceeds were only possible because of the great wines which had been donated, our great travel lots – including a trip for four that sold for \$55,000, a Lyric Opera wine auction record – and unbelievable dinners. A fully online auction combined with our committed audience for another record.”

- CATHY OSBORN AND NANCY S. SEARLE, CO-CHAIRMEN

HONORED GUEST OF WINE AUCTION 2009

PIERRE-HENRY GAGEY

President Maison Louis Jadot

Founded in 1859 by Louis Henry Denis Jadot, Maison Louis Jadot ranks among the premier producers and negociants of the Burgundy wine variety. In 1962 the Jadot family placed operations under the management of André Gagey who became a world-renowned master oenologist credited with a gift for selecting grapes and nurturing young wines. Exposed as a youth to the tradition and culture associated with the vine, Pierre-Henry Gagey joined his father in 1985 as Assistant Managing Director, and ultimately assumed the role of President in 1992 upon his father retiring.

CO-CHAIRMEN: MRS. WILLIAM A. OSBORN, NANCY S. SEARLE



2012



Susan Blankenbaker Noyes

“Milestones great and small are celebrated with Champagne, and for our 10th auction we have Richard Geoffroy, Chef de Cave of Dom Pérignon, as our Honored Guest. The Women’s Board Wine Auctions have kept Lyric bubbling for the past 25 years, and we are so humbled by and appreciative of the fantastic sponsorship and personal wine donations we’ve received for this auction. I am grateful for the opportunity to build on the outstanding work of prior Wine Auction Chairmen and deepen friendships with other Women’s Board members and others in the extended Lyric Opera family. We’ve set the stage for a magical evening of friends and fine wine. I look forward to watching it unfold with all of you the night of February 10, 2012. Santé!”

- SUSAN BLANKENBAKER NOYES, CHAIRMAN



SONG

2009 NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON PHILIPPE MELKA, WINEMAKER BARREL SELECTION FROM GEMSTONE VINEYARD

For the 10th Lyric Opera Wine Auction, The Women's Board of Lyric Opera of Chicago commissioned SONG, a Bordeaux-styled red wine that achieves both harmony and complexity in the glass. SONG was inspired by the artistic elegance of Opera and the ethereal nature of the human voice producing beautiful sound.

Brilliant winemaker Philippe Melka allows *terroir* to sing through this melodious wine. His style is highly prized and has been proven age-worthy by premium California labels for whom Mr. Melka has consulted: Bryant Family, Gemstone Vineyard, Hundred Acre, Lail, Melka Wines, Quintessa, Parallel, and Vineyard 29, among others.

The barrel selection of 2009 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was produced and bottled by Gemstone Vineyard, a small, family-owned, allocation-only winery in Yountville. Mr. Melka notes that SONG is the first-ever 100% Cabernet Sauvignon produced from the esteemed site.

SONG is a limited release of 126 magnums – etched, hand-painted and numbered by our friends at Bergin Glass in Napa Valley. One 6-litre selection was created and will be auctioned live the evening of February 10, 2012.

"The wine is full-bodied, opulent, and gorgeous with deep black fruit with earthy minerality and power that has become the hallmark of Gemstone Vineyard; it will no doubt age well."

–Philippe Melka

COMMEMORATIVE WINE
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED
BY ABBOTT



LOT 55

*One of a kind Imperial bottle of SONG,
a Lyric Opera Commemorative Wine*

SPECIAL THANKS

Philippe Melka
Gemstone Vineyard
Bergin Glass Impressions, Inc.
Tenzing, a Wine and Spirits Company
Thirst



NOTES

