

Salut!

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL



ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Depicting the Naples Winter Wine Festival's theme of love, creative hosts offered four divine vintner dinner parties for guests who aspire to make a difference in the lives of Collier County children

BY LINDA MARX



HEART OF GOLD

HOSTS: Debbi & Bill Cary with Pat & Dave Gibbons

Custom designed gold hearts projected through the lighting followed guests as they approached the front door of Debbi and Bill Cary's waterfront Port Royal home. In the living room, roses dipped in gold hung from an artistic piece of gold metal for the dining table centerpieces.

"The Cary home looked stunning," says Pat Gibbons. "The monochromatic gold decor was perfect for our Heart of Gold dinner theme."

Special vintners for the 36 diners were Barbara Banke and Christopher Carpenter of Cardinale in Oakville, California, who joined chef Nancy Oakes of Boulevard in San Francisco. After a six-course meal with individual wine pairings for such delicacies as Quail Isadora, aged Zabuton beef with winter truffles, and a dessert of Meyer Lemon Drop pudding with lemon crinkle cookies and toasted meringue, guests gathered around the Carys' outdoor pool deck for lively entertainment.

Award-winning songwriter-musicians Monty Powell and Anna Wilson, who are members of the band Troubadour 77, sang a beautiful rendition of Neil Young's popular 1972 tune "Heart of Gold," along with other favorites.

The evening ended with gift bags containing Mt. Brave wine from Christopher Carpenter, Nancy Oakes' *Boulevard: The Cookbook*, and a signed Troubadour 77 CD. "We also reminded everyone that the purpose for our dinner was to help children at-risk and in need," says Dave Gibbons. "People come to our dinners because they want to give back to a well-run charity."



VINTNERS: BARBARA BANKE AND CHRISTOPHER CARPENTER OF CARDINALE IN OAKVILLE, CALIFORNIA
CHEF: NANCY OAKES OF BOULEVARD IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



LUMINAIRE FOTOS





IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

HOSTS: Linda & Tom Koehn with Karen & Dale Medford at the home of Pam & George Hamel, Jr.

It's A Wonderful Life (1946) is one of the most beloved Christmas films and was selected by Pam and George Hamel, Jr., because of its inspirational message: There is value in not doing great things but doing small things in a great way.

About 40 guests entered the Hamels' waterfront Port Royal home and enjoyed cocktails on the porch. Olivier Krug of Krug Champagne in Reims, France, who was the Hamels' vintner partner for the dinner, served 2008 Grand Cuvée during cocktail hour. Inventive chef Gary Danko of Restaurant Gary Danko in San Francisco, California, prepared appetizers of buckwheat blini with smoked salmon, golden Osetra caviar and glazed oysters.

Chef Danko continued his culinary magic by serving a dinner of lobster salad with avocado, duck breast, and herb-encrusted lamb loin with pomegranate before finishing with crumb fresh cheesecake paired with 1988 Krug Champagne.

Guests wrapped up the evening on the lanai which was decorated like a late nightclub for a concert by Nashville performers Billy Dean and Frank Myers. White gift bags contained appropriate bread, salt and wine accompanied by significant quotes from the film: "Bread that this house may never hunger know;" "Salt that life may always have flavor;" "And wine, so joy and prosperity may reign forever." Such wisdom goes hand in hand with the charity's commitment to the children. "The charity changes the lives of children one small step at a time," says Linda. "Together we are better."



MATT STEEVIS PHOTOGRAPHY



VINTNERS: PAM & GEORGE
HAMEL, JR. OF HAMEL FAMILY
WINES IN SONOMA;
OLIVIER KRUG
OF KRUG CHAMPAGNE IN
REIMS, FRANCE
CHEF: GARY DANKO OF
RESTAURANT GARY DANKO IN
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

