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## WORLD-CLASS MUSIC, DANCE, FOOD & WINE FEATURED AT SIXTH ANNUAL *NAPA VALLEY FESTIVAL DEL SOLE*

**Featured artists include the Russian National Orchestra, the Emerson String Quartet, Les Violettes, Sarah Chang, Nino Machaidze, Aleksandra Kurzak, Nina Kotova, David Foster, Angel Romero, Joyce Yang, Francesco Demuro, Stéphane Denève, Omer Wellber, Charice & Ruben Studdard**

*Highlights include the premiere of a multidisciplinary program dedicated to the world of Shakespeare; a newly expanded vocal series; a dance gala featuring principal dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre; and a David Foster & Friends charity concert*

[www.festivaldelsole.org](http://www.festivaldelsole.org)



*Francesco Demuro, Napa Valley, Festival luncheon, photography by Vi Bottaro and Jim Sullivan*

NAPA, CA, March 29, 2011 — Napa Valley's world-class *Festival del Sole* returns for its sixth season, July 15-24, 2011.

Set among lush rolling foothills and breathtaking vineyard landscapes, *Napa Valley Festival del Sole* brings together the best in music, dance, fine wine and cuisine, and unique lifestyle programs for a 10-day experience the *New York Times* calls a "feast for the senses."

The stars come out again for this year's *Festival del Sole*. Highlights include the return of festival favorite **Sarah Chang**; a dance gala starring principal dancers from the **Bolshoi Ballet, San Francisco Ballet** and **American Ballet Theatre**; an expanded vocal series with sopranos **Nino Machaidze, Aleksandra Kurzak** and **Marnie Breckenridge**, baritone **Guido Loconsolo** and tenor **Francesco Demuro**; a **David Foster & Friends** charity concert featuring **Charice, Babyface, Ruben Studdard** and the **Canadian Tenors**; and the premiere of a multidisciplinary program dedicated to the world of Shakespeare.

Among the artists appearing this season are pianists **Joyce Yang** and **Tara Kamangar**, the **Emerson String Quartet**, classical guitarist **Angel Romero**, cellist **Nina Kotova**, baroque group “**Les Violettes**”, and the **Russian National Orchestra** (RNO) under the direction of guest conductors **Stéphane Denève** and **Omer Wellber**.

Audiences can enjoy another season of admission-free concerts as part of the festival’s popular *Bouchaine Young Artists Series* in addition to two free concerts featuring the **United States Army** and **Russian National Orchestra** brass quintets paying tribute to veterans of the Second World War.

The festival schedule follows (*subject to change*):

### **Friday, July 15**

*Napa Valley Festival del Sole’s* sixth season kicks off with a lavish opening night dinner and concert at **Darioush**. Guests will be treated to music under the stars in the winery’s 200-seat amphitheater featuring pianist **Tara Kamangar** performing *Dance Fantastiques*, a work for solo piano by renowned Iranian-Armenian composer and conductor **Loris Tjeknavorian**, in addition to a performance by classical guitarist **Angel Romero**.

### **Saturday, July 16**

The festival presents *A Taste of Napa* at **Bardessono**, featuring local food and wines from artisanal purveyors and renowned Napa wineries, a wellness program led by nutrition specialist **Melina Jampolis**, and a live broadcast of KGO’s *Dining Around with Gene Burns*. The festival celebrates with the Town of Yountville the installation of *Chaos Pamplona*, a newly commissioned sculpture by acclaimed artist **Jedd Novatt**. Also in Yountville is the first performance of the festival’s popular *Bouchaine Young Artists Series*, a free concert series providing performance opportunities for talented young musicians. Saturday evening **Robert Mondavi Winery** hosts **David Foster & Friends**, a charity concert featuring Foster and international pop star **Charice**; R&B sensations **Babyface** and **Ruben Studdard** and the **Canadian Tenors**. An after-party follows at **Ma(i)sonry Napa Valley**.

### **Sunday, July 17**

The day begins with a Vintner’s Luncheon at **Kuleto Estate**. Celebrated soprano **Nino Machaidze**, whose recent debuts include the Metropolitan Opera and Royal Opera House, performs with baritone **Guido Loconsolo** and the **RNO** in a matinee concert led by **Stéphane Denève** at Lincoln Theater. The evening culminates with the festival’s annual gala at **Meadowood Napa Valley**, with a croquet match on the property’s championship lawns, musical performances, a live auction and gourmet dinner on the greens.

### **Monday, July 18**

**Grgich Hills Estate** hosts a concert of baroque music by “**Les Violettes**,” comprising Violet Grgich, harpsichord, and Colin Shipman, viola da gamba, with guest artists Corey Carleton, soprano, and David Wilson, violin. The festival then heads to **Castello di Amorosa** in Calistoga for the first of several outdoor performances in the winery’s beautiful courtyard. Monday’s concert features the **Emerson String Quartet**, fresh off its ninth Grammy win for last year’s album *Intimate Letters*, in a program of last works by three of the greatest chamber music composers: Schubert’s String Quartet No. 15, Haydn’s final unfinished quartet, String Quartet No. 68 and Bartók’s String Quartet No. 6. Grgich Hills Estate hosts the evening’s gala dinner.

### **Tuesday, July 19**

Tuesday begins with a Vintner's Luncheon at **Black Coyote Chateau Winery**. That evening the festival celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Pride Mountain Vineyards**. Perched atop Spring Mountain, Pride Mountain Vineyards has been placed on *Wine Spectator's* "Top 100 Wines of the World" list five times since 2000. This special occasion will feature a gourmet dinner prepared by a celebrity chef and paired with some of Pride Mountain Vineyards' top vintages, and a private concert by the **RNO Four Strings**.

### **Wednesday, July 20**

Wednesday's Vintner's Luncheon takes place at **Fantesca Estate & Winery**. The festival is back to Castello di Amorosa in the evening for a concert starring celebrated violinist **Sarah Chang** and the **RNO** conducted by **Omer Wellber** in his US debut. A gala dinner follows at **Raymond Vineyards**.

### **Thursday, July 21**

The day opens with a wellness program at **Solage Calistoga**, "Food for the Sol," which includes a lunch and reception featuring the resort's Michelin-starred cuisine and a presentation by diet and fitness expert **Wendy Bazilian**. That evening 2010 Avery Fisher Career Grant recipient **Joyce Yang** joins violinist **Sarah Chang**, cellist **Nina Kotova**, and soprano **Nino Machaidze** in a chamber music program that includes the Brahms Piano Quartet in C Minor, at Castello di Amorosa. A gala dinner takes place at **HALL Rutherford**.

### **Friday, July 22**

A Vintner's Luncheon at **Silver Oak Cellars** kicks off another full day of *Festival del Sole*. The second annual Dance Gala, *Stars of American and Russian Ballet*, takes place that night at Lincoln Theater. The performance features **American Ballet Theatre** principal dancers **Maxim Beloserkovsky** and **Irina Dvorovento**; **San Francisco Ballet** principals **Lorena Feijoo** and **Vitor Luiz**; **New York City Ballet** principals **Charles Askegard** and **Wendy Whelan**; and dancers from the **Bolshoi Ballet** performing works choreographed by George Balanchine, Marius Petipa and Vladimir Vasiliev, among others. A gala dinner follows at **Quintessa**.

### **Saturday, July 23**

Following a Vintner's Luncheon at **Chimney Rock**, the festival premieres *Inspired by Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet*, a one-of-a-kind program featuring music, drama, opera and ballet interpretations of Shakespeare's immortal masterpiece. The **RNO** performs Tchaikovsky's *Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture*; actors from the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival interpret key scenes from the play; **Stéphane Denève** conducts soprano **Marnie Breckenridge** and the **RNO** in Tchaikovsky's *Romeo & Juliet* duet; and dancers perform a pas de deux from *Romeo & Juliet* to the music of Prokofiev. The Shakespearean theme continues through the evening with a gala dinner at **Far Niente**.

### **Sunday, July 24**

The festival's sixth season comes to a close Sunday, July 24 with a Vintner's Luncheon at **Tamber Bey Vineyards**. Omer Wellber conducts the final concert at Lincoln Theater with the **RNO**, pianist **Joyce Yang**, tenor **Francesco Demuro** returning after his triumphant debut last year and soprano **Aleksandra Kurzak**, hailed a "dazzling new star" by *The Sunday Times, London*. The closing gala dinner takes place at **Cardinale**.

### **Festival Support**

The night before the official opening, major benefactors and sponsors gather for the annual Founders Dinner, hosted this year by Elizabeth and Clarke Swanson at **Swanson Vineyards**.

Festival del Sole official sponsors are Bouchaine Vineyards and Calistoga Ranch. Corporate sponsors include Bank of America, Bentley San Francisco, Guide by Cell, Tiffany & Co. and 55 Degrees. Diablo Publications and KGO AM 810 Radio participate as media sponsors.

The Russian National Orchestra's four-year commitment as Resident Orchestra is made possible by a major grant from Tatiana and Gerret Copeland, proprietors of Bouchaine Vineyards, with additional core support from Athena and Timothy Blackburn. Both couples are founding benefactors of the festival, as well as long-time RNO patrons.

Annual programs established with generous gifts from other founding benefactors include the *Dede Wilsey Dance Series*, named in honor of its patron, and the Vocal Arts Series funded by a grant from The Shrem Foundation. This support helps make possible bringing top stars from the worlds of dance and opera to festival stages each season.

Hotel and Resort Partners are Calistoga Ranch, Bardessono, The Carneros Inn and The Orchard at The Carneros Inn, Meadowood Napa Valley, Meritage Resort, Harvest Inn, River Terrace Inn, Napa River Inn, Villagio Inn & Spa, Vineyard Country Inn, Vintage Inn and Westin Verasa Napa. Visit [festivaldelsole.org](http://festivaldelsole.org) to take advantage of special rates and packages.

Media Partners helping to promote the festival include American Public Media, KDFC, 89.3 KPCC, Capital Public Radio and WineCountry.com.

The *Bouchaine Young Artist Series* is sponsored by Bouchaine Vineyards and features free performances by talented young artists at venues throughout Napa Valley.

This year's dinner hosts are Darioush, Robert Mondavi Winery, Meadowood Napa Valley, Grgich Hills Estate, Pride Mountain Vineyards, Raymond Vineyards, Quintessa, HALL Rutherford, Far Niente, Swanson Vineyards and Cardinale.

This year's lunch hosts are Black Coyote Chateau Winery, Chimney Rock, Fantesca Estate & Winery, Kuleto Estate, Silver Oak Cellars, Solage Calistoga and Tamber Bey Vineyards.

*Napa Valley Festival del Sole* operates under the umbrella of Festival Association Napa Valley, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The festival was co-founded and is produced by IMG Artists, a leading international arts management firm.

#### **TICKETS:**

Concert tickets go on sale April 1. Purchase on line at [www.festivaldelsole.org](http://www.festivaldelsole.org) by calling 888-FDS-NAPA [888-337-6272] or in person at the festival office, 1556 First Street, Ste 103A in Downtown Napa.

Individual ticket prices start at \$35. The *Bouchaine Young Artists Series* and the US Army Brass quintet concerts are free.

#### **FESTIVAL PACKAGES:**

VIP Packages—from the full Passport to daily and evening only passes—includes exclusive access to vintner's lunches, gala dinners and other special events, and prime seating at performances. Pricing includes a tax-deductible contribution in support of the festival. For information and purchases, contact [concierge@festivaldelsole.org](mailto:concierge@festivaldelsole.org) or call the festival office at 707-294-2800.

For further information and schedule updates, please visit [www.festivaldelsole.org](http://www.festivaldelsole.org).

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