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Opening Night Dinner



Arts For All Gala at HALL Winery

RECAPTURE

The 10 Best Days Of

FESTIVAL NAPA VALLEY

*MUSIC, WINE, GENEROSITY AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF MOON LANDING.*

BY OLIVIA HSU DECKER AND MARIA CASTELLUCCI • PHOTOS BY DREW ALTIZER





Opening Night Opera Under Stars



Francesco Demuro and Joyce El-Khoury



Gorretti Lui, Olivia Decker, Mayor
London Breed, Rick Walker, Lawrence
Lui, Willie Brown, Teresa Rodriguez,
Sonya Molodetsksya

The curtains have closed on the Festival Napa Valley's 10 Best Days of Summer, but the days filled with music, food, wine, and talented artists discovered amid the incomparable beauty and heart-warming hospitality of Napa Valley community created memories that will last a lifetime. From the stunning, world-class performances to the celebration of 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing with a visiting NASA astronaut to the record-breaking generosity at the Arts for All gala that raised \$2.6 million for the Napa Valley charities, these pages recapture the highlights of the events of the Festival 2019.

July 12. Opening Night: Opera Under the Stars at Meadowood

The 14th Festival Napa Valley kicked off in grand style with an opera concert performed by three of the world's most exciting young opera stars on the lush Redwood Fairway of Meadowood golf course. Soprano Joyce El-Khoury, tenor Francesco Demuro, and baritone Lucas Meachem performed operatic favorites with the Festival's Blackburn Music Academy Orchestra under the baton of conductor Christian Reif. Lebanese-Canadian soprano El-Khoury has performed at prestigious Royal Opera House. She was joined by Grammy-award winning baritone Lucas Meachem, who was named San Francisco Opera's 2016 Emerging Star of the Year, and charming Sardinian tenor Francesco Demuro, celebrated for his amazing, powerful voice reminiscent of Pavarotti. Lucas Meachem's barber Figaro aria, "Largo al factotum della citta" from Rossini's Barber of Seville, was both brilliant and comically entertaining. Everyone loved El-Khoury and Demuro's passionate duet of Violetta and Alfredo from Verdi's La Traviata.

The concert was followed by a gourmet feast, prepared by Meadowood's excep-

tional estate chef Alejandro Ayala and pastry chef Kristin Davison and paired with Napa Valley's finest wine. Festival CEO Rick Walker and Board chairman Timothy Blackburn hosted the evening, packed with Festival supporters and patrons, including San Francisco Mayor London Breed, Council General of Italy Lorenzo Ortona, Gordon and Ann Getty, Jan Shrem, and Maria Manetti Shrem.

July 13. Taste of Napa

The popular Taste of Napa event features food, wine, and music at the expansive courtyard of Vista Collina, Napa's newest lifestyle resort which was set up as a tasting village, a local artisanal market, and a spacious community lawn for a picnic and concert. Guests sampled fare from more than 70 local wineries, restaurants, and top artisans. A reserve tasting salon indoors offered exclusive wine tastings in a private setting. This year's entertainment included music by DJ Marcus T and rock and roll band Wonder Bread 5, who performed hits from the '60s, '70s, '80s, and '90s and got attendees dancing beyond the 3:00 pm closing time.



Rick Walker, Joyce El-Khoury, Francesco Demuro, Maria Manetti, Lucas Meachem



Charlie Siem, Maria Manetti and Rick Walker



Reception at V. Sattui Winery



Concert celebrating 50th Anniversary of Moon Landing



Concert with Seal



Francesco Demuro, Olivia Decker, Maria Manetti Shrem, Teresa Rodriguez



Christopher Walden, Paul and Nancy Pelosi, Gregg Field

Sheku Kanneh-Mason and the Havana Chamber Orchestra Perform at Charles Krug Winery

What a rare treat to have cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason come to Napa Valley to give us an evening of music fit for royal ears at the historic Charles Krug Winery. The night's celebration featured the brilliant British cellist, who drew rave reviews after performing at the 2018 royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Kanneh-Mason performed some of the same pieces he played at the royal wedding, under the baton of the renowned Cuban conductor Daiana Garcia and accompanied by the superb Havana Chamber Orchestra, which returned to Festival Napa Valley by popular demand. The orchestra members endured an exhaustive process to get their Visas to come to United States and made the trip just in time for the grand performance in front of the 500 plus attendees on the spacious lawn. The concert was so popular, it more than sold out and had to move from the original venue at Far Niente to the much larger grounds at Charles Krug.

Patron Dinner at Far Niente

One of the finest and most historic wineries in Napa Valley, circa 1885, Far Niente offers the most amazing grounds. Restored in the 1970s, this astounding, historical estate stands out from its original 19th century roots with the rise of its legendary Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. Guests were treated with a sumptuous 4-course meal by estate chef Sarah Walz, who paired the food with Far Niente's exquisite wines. The evening ended with Far Niente's signature dessert wine, Dolce in the Carriage House. Noted guests included Festival CEO Rick Walker and wife Karen, Festival Board member and President of Far Niente Larry Maguire with business partner Beth Nickle, Goretti and Lawrence Lui, San Francisco Mayor London Breed, former Mayor Willie Brown, Gordon and Ann Getty, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, Festival Board member Antonio Castellucci and wife Rita, and Claiborne and Elizabeth Swanson.

July 14. Arts for All Gala Featuring Seal at HALL Napa Valley

One of the primary missions of Festival Napa Valley is to make the arts accessible to everyone. The Arts for All Gala is the most meaningful night of the Festival, and with more than \$10 million raised to date, possibly the biggest fundraiser for arts education in the West. This year, 17 auction lots plus Fund-a-Need raised record-breaking \$2.6 million. Four-time Grammy Award-winner Seal entertained guests with songs from his Grammy Award-nominated album, *Standards*, which pays tribute to legendary artists like Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, and Nat King Cole. He was accompanied by the Festival's Blackburn Music Orchestra. Vintners Kathryn and Craig Hall again hosted this year's gala at their magnificent art-filled HALL Winery in St. Helena. With the majestic Mayacamas Mountains as a backdrop, guests were treated to a 4-course dinner paired with extraordinary wines from HALL, WALT, and Domaine Carneros.

A high-energy, live auction featuring once-in-a-lifetime experience lots capped off the auction. Fierce bidding generated amazing amounts, such as a dinner with Tony Bennett performance at Napa Valley Reserve, which fetched \$20,000 per

ticket for the 40 tickets donated by Napa Valley Reserve. One of the evening's most memorable moments came when 40 commemorative 3-liter bottles from Napa Valley's finest vintners were auctioned off, raising \$125,000 to underwrite Arts for All summer camps for students from the Boys & Girls Clubs and Napa County Office of Education. Proceeds from the evening provide free and affordable access to world-class performances, support public school arts education programs in Napa County, and fund scholarships for emerging musicians.

July 16. Opera Bastianello and Patron dinner at Castello di Amorosa

The majestic hilltop castle welcomed music lovers for the operatic production of *Bastianello*, a satiric Italian folktale about the degrees of marriage and its interplay of sorrows and jubilations. Patrons sat al fresco in the cobblestone courtyard of Castello di Amorosa—the castle of love—to witness the parody of marriage, each scene depicting deeper and deeper hysterics of marital life. Distinguished American pianist and composer John Musto carried on-stage with fellow pianist and director Michael Barrett in what showcased as a comedic opera. A huge thank-you goes to the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Vocal Arts Series sponsoring this comical and flirtatious act.



Patron dinner at B Cellars

Under a full moon, patrons were escorted to the castle's top turret terrace where they dined amid the stars. Fit for none other than a prince, this Napa Estate winery with 121,000 square feet ensures a grand feeling for all seated at the king's table. The 13-century style Tuscan castle was built by visionary and vintner Dario Sattui. Being a guest at his castle calls for an evening of elegance, nobility—nothing short of regal. Patrons savored a true Italian meal of burrata and tomato basil antipasto followed by roasted chicken and a scrumptious dessert delightfully paired with Castello di Amorosa wines. Festival CEO Rick Walker introduced honored guest astronaut Donald Pettit, who was selected by NASA in 1996, and, in 2012, served as a flight engineer for the Expedition 30/31, where he lived aboard the International Space Station for approximately one year. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, Pettit paid

homage to his mission while patrons clapped in recognition of his incredible feat. Surprise entertainment by Monica Mancini, who sang the famous "Moon River" composed by her late father Henry Mancini, delighted attendees. Dining under a full moon with Astronaut Donald Pettit, and sipping on various Castello vintages, left all in marvel as a perfect evening, majestic enough for your highness, drew to a close.

July 17. Grand Cru Concertos at Castello di Amorosa and Patron Dinner at V. Sattui Winery

A trio of rising classical stars—British violinist Charlie Siem, Cuban-Chinese-American Cellist Sophia Bacelar, and Belarus-born percussionist Mitya Nilov—filled the stone courtyard of Castello di Amorosa with a lively concerto accompanied by the Festival's Blackburn Academy Orchestra under conductor Joel Revzen. After the music, guests were treated to a patron dinner at V. Sattui Winery, a second winery owned by Dario Sattui, the proprietor of Castello di

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DIABOLO - Architecture in Motion



Cellist Sophia Barcelar

Amorosa. Named after Dario Sattui's great grandfather, who started the family business more than 130 years after immigrated to the U.S. from his home in Genoa, V. Sattui's classic setting reminiscent of centuries-old Italy includes stone buildings and courtyards, expansive lawns, rose gardens, oak trees, and 35 acres of vineyards. The dinner under the full moon featured cuisine by Stefano Masanti, the Michelin-starred founder and chef of one of Northern Italy's most beloved restaurants, Il Cantinone, served an amazing Italian feast of antipasti, ravioli with potato and fungi, roasted suckling pig, and vanilla chocolate cake with mint gelato, paired with V. Sattui's award-winning wines. A special performance by tenor Francesco Demuro completed this most enchanting, Italian summer evening.

July 18. Star Wars: A New Hope Live with Orchestra at Lincoln Theater and Patron Dinner at Trinchero Napa Valley

Over 40 years ago, the iconic movie *Star Wars: A New Hope* opened up a whole new world of imagination for cinema and culture. Festival Orchestra Napa, under conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos, performed the extraordinary, Oscar-winning movie scores of John Williams while the 1977 *Star Wars* movie played on the big screen above them at Lincoln Theater. The dramatic music, paired with the action-packed movie, gave audiences an unforgettable experience. Light sabers were distributed in the theater, and audiences reconnected with the decades-old *Star Wars* fever: Let the force be with you!

Following the *Star Wars* screening and concert, was a patron dinner at Trinchero Napa Valley, where Principal and Vice Chairman Robert Torres and his wife Maria treated guests to a gourmet dinner of roasted Nantes carrot-ginger soup followed by pave of salmon grilled over oak barrel staves. Trinchero Sauvignon Blanc Mary's Vineyard 2018, Cabernet Franc Central Park Vineyard 2014, signature Cabernet Sauvignon 2013, and Terra d'Oro Zinfandel Port completed the fabulous spread and dessert bar in the tasting room. The elegant winery is so inviting and relaxing, many guests lingered hours after the dinner.

July 19. Dance Gala: DIABOLO/Architecture in Motion at Lincoln Theater and Patron Dinner at B Cellars

In *A Voyage to Outer Space*, Diavolo Dance Company honors the anniversary of the lunar landing. Diavolo takes us into the unfamiliar world of space with various unconventional dance movements. Based out of Los Angeles, Diavolo Dance Company was founded in 1992 by Jacques Heims. Defying the odds, Heims' visionary talents for combining theatre, film, and dance with architecture creates a fantasy of life far away from Earth, a hallucination of sorts. Festival Napa Valley brings gusto, a distinct, offbeat crowd pleaser as patrons in their seats at Lincoln Theatre were absolutely astounded.

The genesis and genius behind this performance is in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, transporting the audience into space, the dark abyss of the unknown. The story begins with a young girl who dreams of travelling to uncharted places as gravity-opposing bodies forge alongside her on this odyssey. What she discovers is the life force, the vitality that does exist in space. Her greatest feat of exploration during her journey—the inspiration that is drawn—leaves the audience in utter suspense (and nausea!).

As part of the Dede Wilsey Dance Series, Festival Napa Valley was honored with the presence of Diavolo Dance in its first appearance in Napa Valley. As Festival continued its focus on exploration and discovery, Diavolo infused the evening with extreme contemporary style movement, acrobatics, and a thrilling modular set design to mimic the lunar sphere. The way it rotated on its axis was unbelievable! A whimsical evening full of drama, energy, and passage, something we can all identify with on this voyage, and how the expressive form of the arts take us to a place of wonder. In the words of astronaut Donald Pettit, "That was the best interpretation of space on earth!" I realized the dancers rocking, floating, and flying in the air and in the half-moon shaped space ship was to show no gravity. Grateful to be in attendance, astronaut Pettit witnessed his year-long mission in space displayed in a dynamic dance rendition at Lincoln Theatre.

The patron dinner following the magical dance performance was held in the Grand Cave at B Cellars in Oakville. Led by top winemaker, Kirk Venge who was

named one of the top 20 winemakers in the world by Food and Wine Magazine, it is safe to say the wines were refined, balanced, and a beautiful expression of the prized Oakville terroir. B Cellars hosted nothing short of a stunning, magnificently coursed, food-and-wine-paired dining experience. Crystal chandeliers gracefully hung from the vaulted cave ceilings as specks of crystals illuminated the long dining table. Estate chef Derick Kuntz prepared a delectable gourmet meal for all to enjoy. B Cellars founders Jim Borsack and Duffy Keys welcomed the 50 guests in the Grand Salon wine cave with a heartfelt welcome toast, a bit of history on the winery, and lovely sentiments to Festival Napa Valley. It was a night for the record books! Over 100 attending Festival patrons included Festival Board member Antonio Castellucci and wife Rita, Maria Manetti and Jan Shrem, Helen and Stanley Cheng, and cellist Sophia Bacelar.

July 20. Vintner's Luncheon at Luna Vineyards Presented by Pomellato and Patron Dinner at Quintessa

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, it was most fitting to have a dazzling luncheon at La Luna. I meant “dazzling” with the jewelry on display by sponsor Milan-based Italian jeweler Pomellato! Guests enjoyed a hot summer day outdoors, dining at Luna Vineyards next to the vines and an array of stunning jewels created by Pomellato. The Luna winemaking team blends Italian tradition with the beauty of Napa terroir in every bottle they craft from their estate-grown Pinot Grigio, which was first introduced to Napa Valley by Luna Vineyards, and Sangiovese, to their award-winning Winemaker's Reserve bottlings of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Cabernet Sauvignon. Attendees included cellist Sophia Bacelar who performed during lunch, Festival Chairman Timothy Blackburn, Pomellato representative Nathalie Diamantis, Rick Walker, Andre and Allison Crisp of Luna Vineyards, and NASA astronaut Don Pettit.

The final patron dinner this year celebrated the 50th anniversary of the moon landing in front of Quintessa's awe-inspiring, crescent-shaped winery. Nestled into the contours of the rustic hillside, Quintessa's architectural design enhances the nature beauty of the landscape and resembles an outer space setting. It didn't hurt to have the full moon and astronaut Donald Pettit on stage to point out the International Space Station flying over Napa Valley at exactly 9:42 pm at the speed of 17,500 miles an hour. I captured it on my camera, although it's just a little blinking light flying at speed of a shooting star. Pianist Liana Pailodze Haron performed during dinner with special earphone headsets for all audiences. The gourmet dinner served summer squash risotto and roasted rack of lamb, followed by peach semifreddo with house-made honeycomb. This final evening of 2019 Festival was truly an out-of-this-world experience!

July 21, Festival Finale Luncheon and Robin Adele Anderson at Alpha Omega Winery

Two of the most gracious and generous hosts in Napa Valley, Robin and Michelle Baggett hosted the Festival's finale luncheon, featuring a concert by YouTube sensation and star of Postmodern Jukebox Robyn Adele Anderson. She performed her sassy, modern hits that left the audience taping their feet. The lunch was a feast prepared none other than Robin himself with his Baggett Ranch BBQ Team. They served up their signature roast of a whole hog pulled pork, family style BBQ St. Louis style ribs, fillet of Alaskan halibut, and Mediterranean red quinoa salad, paired with Alpha Omega's award-winning wines.

What a beautiful way to enjoy 10 fabulous summer days right here in our beloved Napa Valley and with our magnificent Festival. Purchase your Festival passes today for July 17-26, 2020, on www.FestivalNapaValley.org or call 888-337-6272.

