

57°

THIS IS NAPA VALLEY



## 57° DEPARTMENTS

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**Twenty Years of Dramatic Impact**

By Sarah Gillihan

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By Rebekah Moan

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By Jessica Zimmer

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By Betsy Reynard

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By Betsy Reynard



# Twenty Years of Dramatic Impact

By Sarah Gillihan

Photos Courtesy of Festival Napa Valley

It started with a simple guiding principle: support arts for all by assembling the greatest in performing arts in the place with the best food and wine in the country. Twenty years later, Festival Napa Valley has grown into one of the nation's leading nonprofit arts organizations with year-round performances hosted throughout the world. The upcoming stunner-of-an-anniversary summer season is punctuated by an original opera premiere, a music and wellness summit, cross-genre ballet performances, soloists, and chamber musicians, all hosted over 16 days throughout Napa Valley.

For two decades, Festival Napa Valley has transformed the heart of wine country into a vibrant stage where the performing arts, wine, food, and community converge. As it celebrates its twentieth season, the festival marks a milestone not only in longevity but also in cultural impact. The season is crowned by the Arts for All Gala, one of the largest fundraisers in the country for education and the arts. Jazz legend Wynton Marsalis headlines this year's event, which, over the last two decades, has raised more than \$33 million for arts education.





In grand Wine Country style, guests will enjoy a multi-course dinner by acclaimed chef Dustin Valette, chef-owner of restaurants Valette and The Matheson, and will be served wines from the Far Niente Wine Estates portfolio.



The festival's impact extends far beyond its headliners and winery partners. Over the years, it has championed emerging artists, commissioned new works, and fostered arts education initiatives that reach thousands of students. Through scholarships, mentorship programs, and free community performances, the organization has worked to ensure that access to the arts is available to everyone. Daily admission-free concerts and choose-your-price ticketing for evening performances allow the organization to invite the community at large to discover the transformational impact of music and the arts.



The festival's anniversary coincides with other notable milestones being commemorated this year. In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the tasting that changed Napa Valley forever, the festival program includes the world premiere of *The Judgment of Paris*, a new opera by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer that was commissioned by Festival Napa Valley. In celebration of the United States' semiquincentennial, a symphonic finale honoring American music will close out the calendar.

As the curtain rises this season, which runs from July 4 through 19, Festival Napa Valley demonstrates what vision, philanthropy, and community collaboration can achieve.

***For more information, visit [festivalnapavalley.org](http://festivalnapavalley.org).***