

Greater New Orleans

# Where the Wild Things Are: The Woodlands Conservancy Wild Wine Dinner



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Home to one of the region's last bottomland hardwood forests, the role of the [Woodlands Conservancy](#) is multi-faceted. Comprised of the 609-acre Woodlands Trail in Belle Chasse and the 190-acre Delacroix Plantation in Lower Coast Algiers, it is the home to more than 35 native wildlife species and a habitat for 163 species of resident and migratory birds. It has hiking and equestrian trails, and offers interactive educational programs.

On Saturday (Nov. 14), **Woodlands Conservancy Wild Wine Dinner** was held at this unique forest area, as well as the conservancy's programs, can be preserved. It was the benefit's third year: the first one featured Trincherro Family Estates wine at Dominique's on Magazine; the second, focusing on Dakota Shy Wine, was held at English Turn Golf and Country Club, where it returned to this year.

At this 2015 soirée, wines were provided by **Republic National Distributing Company**, with fine wine specialist **Peter Patti** discussing each of the wine and champagne choices to the crowd. The wines served during the Patron Party were: **Ferrari Carano Chardonnay, Sonoma, 2013; Landmark Vineyards Overlook Chardonnay, Sonoma, 2012; Faust Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2013; Justin Cabernet Sauvignon, Paso Robles, 2012; Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, 2012; and Darioush Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa**

**Valley, 2012.** Champagnes included: **G.H. Mumm Brut Cordon Rouge**, which was served at the cocktail party portion of the evening, where **Kenwood Vineyards Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, Sonoma, 2013; and Graffigna Centenario Pinot Grigio, Estate Bottled Reserve, Argentina, 2014**, were poured.

While guests sampled the wines, they could also peruse the silent auction, which offered wines, restaurant gift certificates, art, **Zurich Classic of New Orleans** passes, hotel stays, and tickets to performances at the **Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra** and **Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré**. Throughout the event, partygoers could also purchase jewelry from **Mignon Faget's Palmetto collection**, which was designed for the conservancy, with a portion of proceeds benefiting it.

English Turn chef **Larry Thibodeaux** created the cuisine for the evening, from hors d'oeuvres to a three-course meal: roasted pumpkin salad; pork tournedos, grits and grillades or Masa fried speckled trout; finishing with a turtle molten cake. Wines served with dinner were **Stags Leap Wine Cellars Hands of Time Red Wine, Napa Valley, 2012** and **Chateau Ste Michelle Indian Wells Chardonnay, Columbia Valley, 2014**.

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Those raising a glass to the conservancy's future were Executive Director **Katie Brasted** and **Dr. Bill Brasted** (themselves Lower Coast residents), board chair **Katie Rosenblum and Carl Rosenblum**, event co-chairs **Dreda Culpepper Smith and Sarah Chandler** with husbands **Matt Smith and Nate Chandler**, **Ann and Shaw Thompson**, **Julie and John Bevington**, **Tran and Beau Black**, **Johanna and Dr. Neels Schutte**, **Jaime and John Waters**, **Lisa and Cove Geary**, **Liz and Dr. James Crouch** with daughter **Kristina Crouch**, **Nancy and Lee Dupont**, **Bob Lemon II**, **Peggy and Carl Barbier**, **Benny Rousselle**, **Robin Pannagl**, **Alice and Tim Potter**, **Carly Schwarz**, and **Allison Foraker**.

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