

NEWS FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL WINE CAUCUS

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Premium Wine Auction to Benefit Hurricane Victims

Congressional Wine Caucus to Host Event in Washington D.C .

WASHINGTON—The Congressional Wine Caucus along with the California State Society, the Washington State Society, the Wine Institute, the Napa Valley Vintners Association, Wine America and numerous wine industry groups will be hosting a charity wine auction to benefit the Bush-Clinton Katrina Relief Fund, in Washington D.C., on Wednesday, October 5th, 2005.

Fritz Hatton, one of the nation's foremost wine auctioneers, will preside over the live auction. The event will include both live and silent auctions featuring award-winning wines from our nation's premiere wine regions in California, Washington, Oregon, New York and Virginia. Chef Charlie Palmer and his award-winning restaurant, Charlie Palmer Steak will be donating their services to cater the event.

All of the nation's top wine growing regions will be represented on the auction block. Among the auction lots are truly one of a kind items including cult wines from Dalla Valle, Screaming Eagle and Colgin Cellars as well as an 8 magnum vertical of Turley wines, 6 magnums of Arietta, and an unheard of lot of 36 magnums of Napa Valley cabernet sauvignon. Other wineries participating include, Joseph Phelps, Leonetti Cellars, Arrowood Vineyards, Northstar and Col Solare among many others.

"Hurricane Katrina caused horrific devastation to our neighbors in the Gulf States," Rep. Mike Thompson (D-Napa Valley) said. "We hope that this event will raise money for our fellow Americans who are in need of a helping hand. So far, we have had a phenomenal response from the wine industry and we will be auctioning some exceptional lots of rare wines."

Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA) said, "As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Wine Caucus, and as fellow Americans, it is so important that we step up to the plate and help our friends rebuild their cities, their homes and their lives in the Gulf Region. The Charity Wine Auction will be our small contribution to raise critically needed funds for the survivors of Katrina."

The event will take place Wednesday, October 5th, from 6:00-8:30 pm at 101 Constitution Ave, NW, on the 11th Floor. The hosts are asking for a \$20 minimum donation at the door. Checks should be payable to the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. For more information please contact 202-543-9559 or CSSWineAuction@yahoo.com.

Rep. Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) and Rep. George Radanovich (R-Calif.) founded the Congressional Wine Caucus in 1999 with the goal of informing Members of Congress about the American wine industry. Today, the caucus is composed of a bipartisan group of 210 Members of the House and Senate from all 50 states.