

[Home](#) / [Collecting](#) / [Collecting News](#)

# Heart's Delight Charity Wine Auction Raises \$1.3 Million for American Heart Association

Vintners, chefs, wine lovers and politicians convened in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the four-day event's 20th anniversary



Photo by: HTeam Photography

More than a dozen Bordeaux vintners gathered on stage to show large format bottles up for auction.

*Brianne Garrett*

Posted: March 27, 2019

◀ 1



[Join WineSpectator.com!](#)

↑  
Print  
this  
page.

The Heart's Delight Charity Wine Auction came two months earlier this year, but the excitement still boomed as new and old faces gathered in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the event's 20th anniversary. Held March 6–9, the 2019 event raised \$1.3 million for the American Heart Association, a 13 percent dip from 2018's results, bringing the total amount raised to more than \$19 million since the auction's inception in 1999.

"The amount of time that we had for fundraising and to get people excited about the event was condensed," Brian Kearney, executive committee member, told *Wine Spectator*. "But the 20th anniversary offset that, and people that maybe don't come every year showed up. The friendships that people have built over the years have been amazing."

A standout of the extravaganza was Saturday's grand tasting and live auction, said Kearney. The live auction brought in more than \$400,000, thanks in part to high-earning wine lots such as a double magnum of Château Pontet-Canet 2010 that sold for \$30,000 and double magnums of Château Angélu 2015 and 2012 that raised \$25,000. A lot of 1999 Burgundies—commemorating the event's 20th anniversary—raised \$22,000.

---

***Want to get the latest news on collectible wines and the auction market? Sign up for Wine Spectator's free Collecting e-mail newsletter and get a new top-rated wine review, collecting Q&As and more, delivered straight to your inbox every other week!***

---

"I have no doubt that it was the largest turnout that we've had for a Saturday night event," Kearney said. "All of the large-format [wine lots] did better than they usually do."

The remaining events throughout the four days included the Congress Has Heart reception, showcasing top American producers including Turley and Domaine Drouhin, followed by dinners hosted by embassy members and winemakers and a vintners dinner and auction that spotlighted Angélu. Saturday's Bordeaux master class, with a 2016 vintage tasting from 15 Châteaux including Châteaux Beychevelle and Guiraud, built the momentum for the evening's live auction.

The pulse of Heart's Delight continues to be its participating wineries and chefs, including Amy Brandwein of Centrolina and Akshay Bhardwaj of Junoon. This year saw the highest number of wineries participate; newcomers included Napa's Elyse.

"We've already heard tons of people say, 'We're coming back next year; we want to do more,'" said Kearney. "I think this was a great springboard for the next year."

## See Also

March 5, 2019

[America's Top 13 Charity Wine Auctions Raised \\$42.7 Million in Live-Auction Bids in 2018](#)

February 1, 2019

[Naples Winter Wine Festival Raises Nearly \\$16 Million for Children](#)

January 24, 2019

[Global Wine Auctions Exceed \\$479 Million in 2018](#)

December 13, 2018

[10-Year-Old Winemaker Helps Emeril Lagasse Raise \\$3 Million for Children's Charities](#)

December 4, 2018

[Burgundy's Hospices de Beaune Raises Nearly \\$16.2 Million](#)

---

[See all from Collecting News](#)

## Would you like to comment? Want to join or start a discussion?

Become a WineSpectator.com member and you can!

To protect the quality of our conversations, only members may submit comments. Member benefits include access to more than 315,000 reviews in our Wine Ratings Search; a first look at ratings in our Insider, Advance and Tasting Highlights; Value Wines; the Personal Wine List/My Cellar tool, hundreds of wine-friendly recipes and more.

---