

CITY LIFE

Parties, Culture & Society



Vancouver Magazine publisher Kim Peacock with wine festival executive director Harry Hertscheg.



Goldcorp chairman Ian Telfer, a sponsor of the Bacchanalia gala, with his wife, Nancy Burke, chair of the event.



Michele Becker and Kevin Lorage of Buschlen Mowatt Galleries at the gala.



Bacchanalia gala manager Lorri Kennedy with Christiano van Zeller, principal, Quinta do Vale Dona Maria, at the wine festival's signature soiree.

RAISE A GLASS

Wine festival supports the Playhouse

By Fred Lee

The celebration of the grape dominated the social calendar this past week as the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company held its 30th annual International Wine Festival. More than 1,600 wines from 16 countries were tipped at over 60 events across the city.

The festival was fronted by chair Sue Adams, executive director Harry Hertscheg, Italian Trade Commissioner Antonio Lucarelli and Consul General of Italy Uberto Vanni D'Archirafi. The festivities saw 25,000 consumers and trade professionals take part in the week-long tastings and pairings, red carpet galas, seminars, competitions and awards receptions.

The festival kicked off at Earls Paramount Restaurant with Ciao Italia!, featuring the wines of Italian winery principals Stefano Leone of Antinori, Francesco Domini of Tormaresca and Emanuele Baldi of Prunotto, and closed with the Vintners Awards Brunch at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre.

Considered the crown jewel of the wine festival, the Bacchanalia gala at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver was organized by four-time chair Nancy Burke and gala manager Lorri Kennedy. Among the 600 aficionados who supped on executive chef Robert LeCrom's five-course repast were Marchesi Antinori, David Bate, Teresa Rinaldi, Ray Signorello and Chris-

West lead singer John Mann and the boys chorus from the theatre company's production of *Oliver!* entertained, warming up the audience for the live auction.

For the second year running, a pre-recorded video message from Academy Award-winning actor Kevin Spacey opened the evening's program, hosted by CBC's Bill Richardson, wine columnist Sid Cross and Vancouver Playhouse artistic director Glynis Leyshon. Spacey urged gala-goers to bid high and bid often, which they did, keeping Maynards auctioneer Barry Scott one very busy man.

All 25 lots in the live auction sold for more than their reported value. Sponsorships from Goldcorp, Silver Wheaton, Union Securities, Canaccord Capital, Deloitte and Vancouver Wine Vaults, as well as cash donations and a raffle of a trip for two to Italy, contributed to the evening's record \$559,000 raised.

A bottle of 1982 Chateau Petrus, donated by mining mogul Frank Guistra, received the evening's highest bid of \$46,000. Other top bids included a dozen bottles of 1982 Chateau Mouton Rothschild Cru Paulillac going for \$37,500; Andre St. Jacques Bearfoot Bistro champagne dinner for 10 prepared by executive chef Melissa Craig, recent winner of the Canadian Culinary Championship, fetched \$37,000; the Iron Chef Rob Feenie dinner for eight went for \$16,500; and David Bate's one-off 2006 Leopard Frog Vineyards 18-litre bottle of Tribe wine added another \$14,000 to the event's cork-popping final tally.

Weekend Post



Italian Trade Commissioner Antonio Lucarelli, Consul General of Italy Uberto Vanni D'Archirafi and Italian wine-maker Barbara Tamburini helped spotlight Italian wine.



David Bate of Leopard Frog Vineyards and Maynards auctioneer Barry Scott at the fundraiser.



Diva at the Met executive chef Dino Renaerts and his wife, Nessa Van Bergen, sommelier, Goldfish Pacific Kitchen.



Wine columnist Sid Cross, CBC's Bill Richardson and Vancouver Playhouse artistic director Glynis Leyshon



Taking note of the big Bacchanalia production was Vancouver Playhouse's incoming artistic director,