



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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25th anniversary of Memphis Wine + Food Series continues with the signature Grand Weekend events

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 26, 2017 – Food and wine lovers are invited to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the premiere wine series in Memphis – the Memphis Brooks Wine + Food Series – during the spectacular Grand Weekend.

The series proudly continues the tradition of bringing together prominent vintners and award-winning chefs for a series of fundraising events. All proceeds directly impact the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art's ability to bring arts education to the Mid-South community.

This year's featured vintners for the *Grand Artisans' Dinner* include Lachlan Mackinnon-Patterson and Master Sommelier Bobby Stuckey from Scarpetta, Jamey Whetstone with Whetstone and Jeff Ames from Rudius. The 2017 award-winning chef team includes Andy Ticer & Michael Hudman, Lachlan Mackinnon-Patterson and Ryan Prewitt. This exclusive and intimate dinner will be held at the historic Hunt-Phelan mansion on Friday, May 19. Wines from the featured winemakers will be showcased alongside a four-course dinner from our award-winning chefs.

The James Beard Foundation named Ticer & Hudman semi-finalists for the Best Chef: Southeast award for three consecutive years in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The chefs were nominated in 2015, 2016 and most recently in 2017. Prewitt is a James Beard Award winner for Best Chef: South in 2014 for his restaurant Peche Seafood Grill in New Orleans.

Lachlan Mackinnon-Patterson was nominated by the James Beard Awards in 2006 in the Rising Star Chef of the Year and won the Best Chef: Southwest award in 2008 for his restaurant Frasca Food and Wine in Boulder, Colorado. In 2008, Master Sommelier Bobby Stuckey was nominated by the James Beard Awards in the Outstanding Wine & Spirits Professional category for the Frasca Food and Wine restaurant.

The series' signature event, the **Grand Auction**, takes place Saturday, May 20 under the tent on the plaza of the Brooks Museum. Winemakers from Scarpetta, Whetstone and Rudius will pour their wines as guests settle into their seats for the evening live auction of 50 + lots, including rare and high-profile wines, exotic destinations, fine art, jewelry, tastings and private dinners. Guests bid on these items while enjoying the wines and the company of our featured vintners and an abundance of food from Paradox Catering and Chef Jimmy Gentry. This is a high-energy live auction, with proceeds going to the museum's education program.

The 25th anniversary celebration continues in the fall with **Vin-A-Que: Oktoberfest**. This popular party scheduled for Friday, September 29, features snout-to-tail pork barbeque cooked by the city's finest chefs and includes wine, liquor, and a deep dive into the microbrewery phenomenon.

Memphis Brooks Wine + Food Series is the museum's premier fundraising endeavor. Dollars raised from this season of events makes the arts accessible to children and adults across the Mid-South. Over the past 25 years, the series has contributed approximately \$5 million in net revenue to the Brooks, which directly supports the museum's award-winning educational and community outreach programs. The museum is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution. With less than 12 percent of its budget provided by government funding, the Brooks relies on the generosity of individuals, foundations and corporations for support to meet operating costs and other expenses.

The chairs for the 2017 season are Mark and Annabeth Parker and Suzanne and Jon Scharff. The 2017 Memphis Brooks Wine + Food Series sponsors: Presented by First Tennessee Foundation / ArtsFirst, SouthernSun Asset Management, Buster's Liquors and Wines, North Berkeley Imports, The Peabody Memphis, Hauber Family Foundation, UBS/Mark Parker, nexAir, A2H, Bishop Hearth & Home, Morris Auction Group, Bradley Rice/The Fischer Company, Campbell Clinic, Bill & Lyn Reed, Judy Scharff Fund, Scrubtastic, Signet Inc., Siskind Susser PC and Paulsen Printing.

2017 Memphis Brooks Wine + Food Series dates and events:

- **Friday, May 19 | 6:30 p.m.**

Grand Artisans' Dinner at Hunt-Phelan Mansion

Enjoy this exclusive and intimate dinner, where wines from the featured winemakers will be showcased alongside a four-course dinner from our award-winning chef team.
Tickets are \$800 per person, which includes admission to the Grand Auction.

- **Saturday, May 20 | 5 p.m.**

Grand Auction at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art

Raise your paddle and your glass to the event that only gets better with age.
Tickets are \$150 per person or \$2,000 for a reserved table for 12.

- **Friday, September 29**

Vin-A-Que: Oktoberfest at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art

Indulge in snout-to-tail pork barbeque cooked by the city's finest chefs including wine, beer and liquor accompaniments.
Tickets prices are TBD.

Mission:

Founded in 1916 and located at 1934 Poplar Ave. in historic Overton Park, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art is home to Tennessee's oldest and largest major collection of world art. More than 10,000 works make up the Brooks Museum's permanent collection, including works from ancient Greece, Rome and the Americas; Renaissance masterpieces from Italy; English portraiture; American painting and decorative arts; contemporary art; and a survey of African art. The Brooks Museum enriches the lives of our diverse community through the museum's expanding collection, varied exhibitions, and dynamic programs that reflect the art of world cultures from antiquity to the present. For more information about the Brooks and all other exhibitions and programs, call 901.544.6200 or visit www.brooksmuseum.org.

Art from everywhere. An experience for everyone.

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