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Destin Charity Wine Auction Raises Record-Breaking $3.3 Million for Children's Charities

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The annual Destin Charity Wine Auction continues to make waves in the world of philanthropy and wine lovers alike. This year's event, held on April 27, saw an impressive turnout of over 600 attendees at the Grand Boulevard Sandestin Town Center in Miramar Beach, Florida. Together, they raised an astounding $3.3 million for 17 children's charities in the northwest Florida region. This remarkable feat marks another successful chapter for an event that has been a beacon of generosity since its inception in 2005.

The Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation (DCWAF) has a mission that goes beyond wine and luxury travel—it's about changing lives. Kate MacMillan, the foundation's director of marketing and communications, shared her thoughts on the event's impact. "Seeing our generous community come together to make an impact on the next generation is hugely rewarding," she said. "The vintners, chefs, volunteers, and patrons that walk into the auction tent year after year continue to keep our mission of helping children in need in northwest Florida front of mind."

The Auction: Big Bottles, Big Bids

The live auction itself was a highlight, raising over $2.3 million through 52 exciting lots, 25 of which featured wine. A standout tradition is the opening lot, aptly named Magnum Force. This lot offered 50 magnums from esteemed vintners like Caymus, Joseph Phelps, Paul Hobbs, and Spottswoode, fetching a commendable $55,000.

One of the night's biggest sellers was a luxurious five-night trip to Anguilla, which went under the hammer for a whopping $100,000. Not far behind was a Rolling Stones concert experience, including private air travel, which sold for $65,000. Other notable lots included a seven-night South African safari and wine adventure for two couples, donated by Betz Family Winery, which garnered $60,000. Additionally, a package for four couples to attend the 2025 Cayman Cookout, hosted by chef Eric Ripert at the Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman, sold twice, each time for $130,000.

Dining with a Purpose

The night before the main event, the auction's spirit of giving extended to 12 patron dinners held in various restaurants and private homes throughout the greater Destin area. These dinners alone raised over $550,000, showcasing the community's enthusiasm and support for the cause.

This year's auction proceeds will support 17 charity partners, an increase from 16 in previous years. These funds will address a wide array of critical needs, from health care and education to homelessness and abuse. Last year's beneficiaries included a GED program for at-risk students, dental care for underinsured and uninsured children, and

housing initiatives for homeless children and their families. This year's contributions will be distributed to partner charities on August 29 at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort and Spa.

A Legacy of Giving

Since its beginning, the Destin Charity Wine Auction has raised more than $35 million, impacting the lives of over 100,000 children. This incredible legacy of giving will continue to grow as the foundation looks forward to its 20th event, scheduled for April 25-27, 2025.

The Destin Charity Wine Auction is not just a testament to the power of generosity but also to the enduring spirit of community. Each year, it brings together people who are passionate about making a difference, one bid at a time. As the event grows, so does its impact, ensuring that the children of northwest Florida have the support they need to thrive. Cheers to another successful year and to many more lives changed for the better.