



WINEMAKERS DINNERS 2009

Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands (October 16, 2009): The BVI Charitable Fund, which is organizing the December series of the 2009 Virgin Islands Winemakers Dinners, announced today that Chef Anne Burrell, the host of the Food Network program “Secrets of a Restaurant Chef” and former sous-chef to Mario Batali on Iron Chef America will be one of the six visiting chefs participating in the four dinners that will be held in four special locations in the BVI between December 3rd and 6th.

Ajit Mathew George, Co-Chair of the BVI Charitable Fund said, “the 2009 Winemakers Dinners are a series of exclusive events during which guests will have the opportunity to meet some of the most gifted winemakers in the world and sample their award-winning wines. These are wines are expertly paired with innovative creations by international master chefs and some of the best BVI chefs. The six visiting chefs, with the assistance of BVI chefs, will prepare on four separate nights seven course formal dinners that will be paired with 14 different wines presented by seven wineries from Argentina, California, France, Germany and Italy whose representatives will personally pour their wines each night.”

NET PROCEEDS FROM THESE EVENTS HELD BETWEEN JULY 16 TO JULY 19 AND DECEMBER 3 TO 6, 2009 WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE BVI CHARITABLE FUND TO BVI RED CROSS; ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, VIRGIN GORDA; ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, TORTOLA AND YEP, TORTOLA.

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The seven wineries presenting their wines include Francis Ford Coppola's Rubicon from California; Cheval des Andes from Argentina; Weingut Grans Fassian from Leiwen, Germany; Tenuta San Leonardo from Trentino, Italy; the Grand Cru champagne house Pierre Paillard from Bouzy, France; Weingut Reinhold Haart from Piesport, Germany and Terrazas De Los Andes from Argentina. All the wineries are donating the wines poured during this event. In addition each winery is donating some interesting wines for a small auction.

The seven courses served at each dinner will be prepared under the leadership of Vikram Garg who is the Executive Chef of the famed Halekulani On The Beach at Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawaii. In addition to Chef Anne Burrell (<http://www.foodnetwork.com/secrets-of-a-restaurant-chef/index.html>) the other participating chefs include former Top Chef contestant Otto Borsich who has also worked at some of America's finest establishments including the Pierre Hotel, Le Bernadin, Bellagio Hotel and Charlie Trotters; Taekyung Chung from Chung Cooking Studio, Tokyo, Japan who is the author of The Korean Table, the bible of Korean Cooking and Roberto Trevino from the Bodati, San Juan, Puerto Rico who participated in Iron Chef and the Next Iron Chef.

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Swiss born Albert Kramer accepted a special invitation from the Hon. Premier to return to the BVI for the Virgin Islands Winemakers Dinners. Chef Kramer was the first Executive Chef at Little Dix Bay Resort in Virgin Gorda when Laurance Rockefeller opened it in 1964. He also became the first developer of Nail Bay in 1966. Chef Kramer has worked all over the world after he left the BVI in 1967.

Pastry Chef Heidi Benyair of Biras Creek Resort, Virgin Gorda who previously worked as a pastry chef for Gordon Ramsay at Claridges in London will be working with local chefs to prepare the desserts for each night. All the chefs including the visiting chefs are volunteering their time and talent.

A VIP Reception will kick off the December series of the Winemakers Dinners on December 2nd at Pirates Bight on Norman Island, allegedly the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island.

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The first dinner will be held on December 3rd at Baraka Point, a 12,000 sq. ft. luxury villa at Nail Bay. (www.barakapoint.com). The second dinner will be held on December 4th at a beautiful villa in Tortola that was best described by super model Kate Moss when she said “ Frenchmans Lookout is the most beautiful place I have ever stayed in the Caribbean.” (www.frenchmanslookout.com).

On December 5th, the new reincarnation of Giorgio’s Table, which is Virgin Gorda’s newest restaurant, will host the third dinner. The final dinner will be held on December 6th at The Golden Pavilion in Tortola, a one of a kind Balinese-style villa on four gated acres. (www.goldenpavilionvilla.com).

In addition to the four dinners, there will be seven luncheons at various restaurants in Virgin Gorda and Tortola featuring a three-course lunch with one of the seven wineries presenting their wines. A limited number of tickets to the December dinners will be available with sponsorships, which can be purchased on or after November 1, 2009 on-line at www.winemakersdinner.com.

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The Co-Chairs of the BVI Charitable Fund are the Premier of the British Virgin Islands, the Hon. Ralph T. O'Neal, OBE and Ajit Mathew George, Managing Director, Nail Bay Resort. The BVI Charitable Fund was established on Easter Monday, March 24, 2008 with a \$25,000 challenge grant from Nail Bay Resort to create new and innovative fund-raising events to benefit various charities in the BVI by attracting support from both outside and with the BVI while at the same time promoting this destination to potential new visitors.

The four beneficiaries of the net proceeds of the 2009 Winemakers Dinners are all in the British Virgin Islands including The BVI Red Cross, St. Mary's School, Virgin Gorda, St. George's School, Tortola and YEP (Youth Empowerment Project) in the East End, Tortola.

The BVI Tourist Board is the Presenting Sponsor of the 2009 and 2010 Winemakers Dinners. For additional information on winemakers, chefs , lunch and dinner locations, visit www.winemakersdinners.com.

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