

NEWS from St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church, Los Olivos

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ST. MARK'S 3rd ANNUAL *CELLAR CLASSIC: AN AUCTION OF RARE & FINE WINES* WILL BE SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2012



CAPTION: A sold-out crowd enjoyed the 2nd annual *St. Mark's Cellar Classic: An Auction of Rare & Fine Wines* in July 2011 that raised \$130,117 and netted \$118,266 after expenses—the largest single-event fundraiser in church history, surpassing the outstanding \$103,020 net raised during the first event in 2010-- with all monies directly supporting the church's community service work.

Many hi-res images readily available upon request via laura@mariahmarketing.com

(Photo Credit: Mike Mesikep)

Los Olivos, Santa Barbara County, California—St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church invites the public to attend the third annual *Cellar Classic: An Auction of Rare & Fine Wines* on Saturday, July 28, 2012, from 4:00-7:00pm in the Church's garden courtyard at 2901 Nojoqui Avenue in downtown Los Olivos. The Cellar Classic is coordinated by a committee of dedicated volunteers led by Steve Pepe (owner of Clos Pepe Vineyards) and Brooks Firestone (owner of Curtis Winery).

The Cellar Classic features both a live auction of rare, collectable wines such as Chateau Lafite Rothschild; Domaine de la Romanee-Conti, and California cult wines; conducted by professional auctioneer John Glines; as well as a silent auction of other fine wines, wine-related gifts and lifestyle packages. Bountiful gourmet hors d'oeuvres will be served along with local wines accompanied by live entertainment. All proceeds benefit St. Mark's and its extensive community programs and services in the Santa Ynez Valley.

According to the Church's priest and rector, The Rev. Dr. Randall Day, "We embrace a spacious Christianity where there is room for absolutely everyone. St. Mark's is the home of a vibrant Episcopal congregation as well as serving as a meeting place for the area's Jewish community, along with many other organizations including Food Bank, Valley Community Theatre, and 12-step recovery groups. We actively support the arts with our Schoolhouse Music Evenings and other concerts throughout the year as well as hosting exhibitions of photography and art. Our Pre-School provides top-flight early childhood education for those of all faiths. Everyone invited to attend the Cellar Classic, truly a wine industry event."

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Steve Pepe remarked, “In the Cellar Classic’s first two years, the event has been a rousing financial success raising more than \$200,000. We hope to continue to provide important community service support such as a \$5,000 donation funding area children to attend the nearby St. Vincent de Paul’s Circle V Ranch Camp. All the wines, live and silent auction items were donated by St. Mark’s members and friends; ensuring that all monies benefited the community. St. Mark’s depends on the generosity of its parishioners especially the wine industry surrounding it to provide sufficient funds to continue its mission to openly serve an increasingly diverse population with a very wide range of needs.”

Cellar Classic tickets are \$100 per person including wine, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment—available only in advance with payment by check, credit card or PayPal. To receive an invitation and purchase tickets or to donate wine for the auction, contact Steve Pepe at steve@clospepe.com or call him at 805-735-7867 or call the church office at (805) 688-4454.

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