



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13TH ANNUAL GRAND CRU CULINARY WINE FESTIVAL RAISES MORE THAN \$3 MILLION FOR UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK

Guests gathered to support medical research and innovation at Canada's premier wine and culinary festival

TORONTO, Oct. 31, 2017 – The 13th annual [Grand Cru Culinary Wine Festival](#), Canada's premier wine and culinary fundraiser, raised over \$3.5 million net in support of scientific research and key program areas at Toronto General and Toronto Western hospitals, University Health Network (UHN). The three-day event, which ran from October 26 to 28, presented by Aston Martin and Grand Touring Automobiles, has raised more than \$26.2 million since 2005.

“We are so very grateful to all our participants in this year's Grand Cru Culinary Wine Festival. Funds raised from the auction will support world-leading researchers at Toronto General and Toronto Western hospitals to continue to push the boundaries of science across a wide range of programs,” says Grand Cru Founder and Chair, Vice-Chair Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation Board of Directors and UHN Board Trustee, Todd Halpern. “We are immensely proud of what this one-of-a-kind event has become. A big thank you to all of our donors, sponsors, hosts, chefs, vintners and volunteers for their tremendous support.”

On Thursday, October 26, more than 1,500 guests attended the biennial Halpern Portfolio Wine Tasting and Grand Cru Live Auction at the Beanfield Centre. This year's auction included 22 rare wine lots, 16 unique experiential and luxury lots and five art lots. Highlights included: a 2017 Aston Martin DB11, donated by Aston Martin, sold for \$290,000; a dazzling diamond necklace, donated by Royal de Versailles, sold for \$25,000; a Miele 48" Range, donated by Miele, sold for \$6,000; a Harlan Estate 2013 wine lot, donated by Harlan Estate, sold for \$15,000; a Toronto Raptors super fan experience in NYC, donated by John Fitzgerald, sold for \$20,000.

On Friday, October 27, guests enjoyed a Castello di Ama, L'Apparita Vertical Wine Tasting at Sotto Sotto before the annual Grand Cru Appreciation Party at the Capitol Event Theatre. The Appreciation Party is an invitation-only celebration to thank Grand Cru chefs, wine estates, hosts, UHN scientists, VIP guests and event sponsors.

On Saturday, October 28, more than 700 guests attended Grand Cru Exclusive Wine & Dine Experience Dinners in 26 spectacular private homes and venues across the GTA. Each home featured menus prepared by top chefs, accompanied by extraordinary wines and a senior UHN clinician or researcher. Guests learned about the latest discoveries and life-saving breakthroughs at UHN while enjoying the best in food and drink.

Celebrity chefs included, Mark McEwan, Lorenzo Loseto, Arpi Magyar and Daniel Boulud. Participating wine estates included Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Remoissenet Père et Fils, Château Latour, Bodegas Vega Sicilia, Silver Oak Cellars, Cliff Lede Vineyards and Antinori.

Additional Festival sponsors included [Miele](#), [Rogers](#), [Royal de Versailles](#) and [Raymond James](#).

Grand Cru has been recognized by *BizBash* as one of the top four benefits in Canada three years running and this year's number-one benefit in Toronto.

For more information about the Grand Cru Culinary Wine Festival, please visit grandcru.ca.

About Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation

Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation (TGWHF) raises funds for research, education and the enhancement of patient care at Toronto General and Toronto Western hospitals, as well as the Michener Institute of Education at UHN. Together with its donors, TGWHF is helping UHN pursue the knowledge that makes all our lives better.

tgwhf.ca

About University Health Network

University Health Network (UHN) includes Toronto General and Toronto Western hospitals, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and the Michener Institute of Education at UHN. The scope of research and complexity of cases at UHN has made it a national and international source for discovery, education and patient care. It has the largest hospital-based research program in Canada, with major research in cardiology, transplantation, neurosciences, oncology, surgical innovation, infectious diseases, genomic medicine and rehabilitation medicine. UHN is a research hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto.

uhn.ca

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