

CHESAPEAKE BAY CLASSIC



STACY PARKER

Eleanor and Bob Stanton's love of wine turned into a way to raise money for charity. The Stantons founded the Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation, which will have its 18th annual Grand Tasting Sunday.

Wine lovers will have a taste of the grape for a good cause

By Stacy Parker
Correspondent

OCEANFRONT

At the end of a road that runs through the Bayville Golf Club, the Stanton house holds a story of milk and wine.

Eleanor Stanton, granddaughter of Charles F. Burroughs Sr., reminisced about when her

grandfather ran a dairy and produced Guernsey milk at Bayville Farms years ago.

She keeps her memories of those pastoral days when strawberries, corn and peonies flourished on her family's land overlooking the Lynnhaven River.

"When I was a little girl, this was a farm,"

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WINE TASTING

Annual fete features 200 wines, seminars, music and auction

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she said. "If a cow wasn't on it, something was growing on it."

The connection to the land, the budding fruit, translated into an idea that Stanton, and her husband, Robert, grew into a fundraising machine.

The Stantons share their home on the historic "Bayville Milk Route" each year for a charitable cause. They founded the Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation in 1991 and kicked off the fundraising with a wine auction on their front yard.

In its first year, the auction raised about \$30,000.

"We thought we knocked the ball out of the park," said Bob Stanton, a real estate developer.

The party was an immediate success, jumping from 200 guests to 750, and so increased the proceeds each year.

"When we conceived this thing 20 years ago, we never thought it would be as big as it's become," said Bob Stanton. "It's really taken on a life of its own."



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Eleanor and Robert "Bob" Stanton's Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation has raised \$2 million for charities, including ACCESS College Foundation.

With the auction each fall, a wine tasting event each spring and a ladies only Billfish tournament, the foundation has raised \$3 million for charities. ACCESS College Foundation, which provides counseling about college admission requirements and assistance in finding scholarship money, is its primary recipient.

"They take every dollar we give them and turn it into \$16 in their effort to make college education within the reach of every high school student in Hampton Roads," said Jennie Capps, the wine foundation's

going?

What Chesapeake Bay Wine Classic Foundation wine tasting

When Seminars begin at 3 p.m., Grand Tasting is from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday

Where Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 57th Street and Atlantic Avenue

Cost \$75.

Info www.cbwc.org

executive director.

The 18th annual Grand Tasting will be Sunday at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront.

Eighteen restaurants from Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Suffolk, Portsmouth and Cape Charles will participate in the Grand Tasting, which includes wine seminars that begin at 3 p.m.

More than 200 wines from around the world will be available for tasting. A silent auction and raffle will also be held. Live music will be performed by Swing Time. The event of ten is sold out.

The Stantons look forward to the tasting each year to connect with distributors and wine growers.

"We want to generate interest in wine and food and to educate people," said Bob Stanton.

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