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## ***NAPA VALLEY FESTIVAL DEL SOLE ANNOUNCES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SEASON***

**Joshua Bell, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Chris Botti, Francesco Demuro,  
Nina Kotova, Carlo Ponti, Carlo Montanaro, Alondra de la Parra, Nikki Yanofsky,  
Conrad Tao & Kelley O'Connor highlight the festival's fifth anniversary season**

*A first-ever dance gala featuring dancers from the Bolshoi, American Ballet Theatre and New York City and San Francisco ballets; a reading by Rita Moreno; a free concert series highlighting emerging artists; and the return of the world-renowned Russian National Orchestra among many exciting offerings*

**[www.fdsnapa.org](http://www.fdsnapa.org)**

NAPA VALLEY, CA, March 17, 2010 — Napa Valley's world-class *Festival del Sole* returns for its fifth anniversary season, **July 16-25, 2010**.

This year's ten-day schedule is packed with events for every taste and budget—from classical music to tango and jazz, from exclusive gourmet meals to free family-friendly concerts, from wellness programs to wine tastings and after-parties, and a first-ever croquet match between artists and vintners.

Among the artists appearing this season are tenor **Francesco Demuro**, mezzo-soprano **Kelley O'Connor**, violinist **Joshua Bell**, pianists **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** and **Conrad Tao**, cellist **Nina Kotova**, jazz trumpeter **Chris Botti**, dancers **Maxim Beloserkovsky** and **Irina Dvorovenko**, conductors **Carlo Ponti**, **Carlo Montanaro** and **Alondra de la Parra**, jazz/pop singer **Nikki Yanofsky** and – making a much-anticipated return as resident orchestra – the **Russian National Orchestra (RNO)**.

The RNO will be in residence for the next four seasons of the festival, through summer 2013. The four-year commitment was made possible in part by a generous donation from Tatiana and Gerret Copeland, proprietors of **Bouchaine Vineyards**, with additional support from Athena Blackburn, a festival Founding Benefactor and long-time RNO patron. "What an honor to have the RNO, recognized as among the world's top orchestras, once again in residence," says Tatiana Copeland. "My husband and I are so pleased to be part of making this possible."

Festival director Richard Walker says, "Five years ago we set out to create a festival combining the best in music, art, food and wine. And we have done just that. Today *Napa Valley Festival del Sole* has become one of the country's leading summer music festivals."

*Napa Valley Festival del Sole* was co-founded and is produced by IMG Artists, a leading international arts management firm. Says its Chairman Charles Hamlen, "IMG Artists played a key role in launching this festival, and is proud of our continuing role in making the Napa Valley an international destination for audiences and artists."

This year **Robert Cole**, former director of Cal Performances at UC Berkeley, joins the team as Festival Advisor. “I look forward to working with everyone involved to further the festival's reputation for the finest in music and dance,” says Cole.

The fifth anniversary season kicks off with a July 16 concert at Napa Valley Opera House, with award-winning pianist **Conrad Tao** and the **RNO Four Strings** in Mozart Piano Concerto No. 12, K. 414, and soloists **Maxim Rubtsov** and **Vladislav Lavrik** in Bolling's Suite for Flute & Jazz Piano and Toot Suite for Trumpet & Jazz Piano. Chef **Ken Frank** hosts an after-party at **The Westin Verasa Napa**, home to his La Toque restaurant.

On July 17 the festival presents *A Taste of Napa* at **Calistoga Ranch**, showcasing some of the region's finest wines and cuisine. Also on hand is nutrition specialist **Melina Jampolis** to lead the first in a series of wellness programs. That evening, **Far Niente** opens its historic gates for the winery's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, with performances by jazz trumpeter **Chris Botti** and violinist **Joshua Bell**, the cuisine of top chefs and dancing in the Carriage House.

The concert July 18 at Lincoln Theater Napa Valley features conductor Alondra de la Parra leading the **RNO**, **Joshua Bell** and pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** in a program that includes Mendelssohn's Double Concerto, Mozart's Overture to the Marriage of Figaro, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 'Eroica'.

The next night, July 19, is *A Night of Tango* at **Palmaz Vineyards**, featuring the music and cuisine of Argentina. The program includes the music of Astor Piazzolla performed by the **RNO Four Strings**.

**Jean-Yves Thibaudet** and **Nina Kotova** join the **Rossetti String Quartet** for chamber music at Castello di Amorosa on July 20. Renowned for its sophisticated, sensual sound, the Rossetti String Quartet is a frequent collaborator of the virtuoso French pianist.

Jazz-pop prodigy **Nikki Yanofsky** performs at Castello di Amorosa on July 21. The 16-year old sensation who recently sang Canada's national anthem at the opening ceremony of the 2010 Winter Olympics, is also poised to release her first studio album.

On July 22, tenor **Francesco Demuro** and cellist **Nina Kotova** headline a concert with the **RNO** under the baton of **Carlo Montanaro** at Castello di Amorosa. Also appearing is actress, singer and dancer **Rita Moreno**. A recipient of the National Medal for the Arts, and an Emmy, Oscar, Grammy and Tony award winner, Moreno opens the program with a special reading from *Master Class*, Terrence McNally's award-winning play based on the life of Maria Callas.

The festival's first-ever Dance Gala, *Stars of American and Russian Ballet*, takes place July 23 at Lincoln Theater. The evening features performances by a roster of world-renowned dancers including American Ballet Theatre principals **Maxim Beloserkovsky** and **Irina Dvorovenko**, San Francisco Ballet principals **Lorena Feijoo** and **Vitor Luiz**, Bolshoi Ballet principals **Marianna Ryzhkina** and **Dmitry Gudanov**, and New York City Ballet principals **Megan Fairchild** and **Andrew Veyette**.

*Festival del Sole* presents **Chris Botti**, one of today's best-selling contemporary jazz artists, at **Robert Mondavi Winery** on July 24.

On July 25, it is the RNO in concert at Lincoln Theater with conductor **Carlo Ponti**, Grammy-winning mezzo-soprano **Kelley O'Connor**, and the **Volti** chorus.

Each day of the festival promises lavish meals, including dinners at **Kristine Ashe Vineyards**, **Palmaz Vineyards**, **Robert Mondavi Winery**, **Sterling Vineyards**, **Castello di Amorosa**, and **Quintessa**.

The festival's Fifth Anniversary Gala takes place July 18 at **Meadowood Napa Valley**, featuring dinner, a performance by the **RNO Brass**, and an *Artists vs. Vintners* croquet match.

The festival's closing night dinner, hosted by benefactors Tatiana and Gerret Copeland, Bouchaine Vineyards, Timbers Resorts and The Carneros Inn, takes place July 25 at **The Orchard at The Carneros Inn**.

The night before the official opening, major benefactors and sponsors gather for the annual Founders Dinner, hosted by **Round Pond Estate**.

Daily vintner's lunches take place at **Pride Mountain, Seven Stones, Ma(i)sonry, Spring Mountain Vineyard, CADE Winery, Tamber Bey** and **Darioush**. At **Clos Pegase**, proprietor Jan Shrem reprises his lively presentation on the history of wine in art, *Bacchus the Rascal* and hosts a brunch following.

Festival-goers will enjoy another season of the *Bouchaine Young Artist Series*, which provides performance opportunities for emerging musicians and talented young performers. These concerts are free to the public and are held at venues throughout Napa Valley.

Festival del Sole official sponsors are **Bouchaine Vineyards** and **Calistoga Ranch**. Corporate sponsors include **Bentley San Francisco, Guide by Cell, Relevé Unlimited, Tiffany & Co.** and **55 Degrees**. **Diablo Publications** and **KGO AM 810 Radio** participate as media sponsors.

Resort Partners are **Calistoga Ranch, Bardessono, The Carneros Inn** and **The Orchard at The Carneros Inn, Meadowood Napa Valley, Harvest Inn, Vineyard Country Inn** and **Westin Verasa Napa**. Media Partners helping to promote the festival include **KDFC-FM, American Public Media, 89.3 KPCC, Capital Public Radio, KVON** and **The Vine**, and **WineCountry.com**.

*Festival del Sole* operates under the umbrella of Festival Association Napa Valley, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

#### **FESTIVAL TICKETS:**

Concert tickets go on sale April 1 for purchase on line at **www.fdsnapa.org** or by calling **888-FDS-NAPA [888-337-6272]**. Tickets will also be available in person at the Napa Valley Opera House and Lincoln Theater box offices, the Robert Mondavi Winery and Castello di Amorosa gift shops, and other locations. Prices start at \$35. The *Bouchaine Young Artist Series* is free.

#### **FESTIVAL PACKAGES:**

VIP Packages – from the full Passport to daily and evening only passes – includes exclusive access to vintner's lunches, gala dinners and other special events, and prime seating at performances. Pricing includes a tax-deductible contribution in support of the festival, and purchasers are listed in the Official Program. For information and purchases, contact [fdsconcierge@gmail.com](mailto:fdsconcierge@gmail.com).

For further information and schedule updates, please visit **www.fdsnapa.org**.