

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Media Contact:**

Su Byron ▪ subyron@verizon.net

- To interview Kate Atkin, SMO's executive director, call 941-955-3663
- To interview Michael Klauber, call 941-308-1212

**The Fifth Annual**  
**Forks & Corks Food & Wine Festival**  
**Presents**  
**Forks & Corks University**

**Saturday, January 28, 2012**

*Educational, inspiring and delicious—these interactive seminars are led by recognized wine experts from around the world.*

(Sarasota, Florida) The Sarasota-Manatee Originals' (SMO) fifth annual Forks & Corks Food & Wine Festival features **Forks & Corks University**, **Saturday, January 28, 2012**, as part of the four-day event, which runs January 27-30, 2012. Foodies and oenophiles will converge at Michael's On East, 1212 East Ave. S., Sarasota, to taste rare and inspired wines. Attendees will learn about—and taste—a diverse selection of Italian wines, pinot noirs and cabernets.

“Forks & Corks University is an extremely popular part of the festival,”

says Kate Atkin, executive director of The Sarasota-Manatee Originals. "Led by recognized wine experts from around the world, these interactive seminars will take your wine knowledge to a higher level!"

"These educational seminars are what sets Forks & Corks apart from most other wine and cuisine festivals," say Michael Klauber, Forks & Corks events co-chair. "It takes it to another level. Guests are not just passively consuming—they're also absorbing the expertise of world-renowned wine experts."

Atkin urges people with passion about wine to purchase their tickets soon as tickets are going quickly. *To learn more about the event and to purchase tickets, visit [www.freshoriginals.com/forksandcorks](http://www.freshoriginals.com/forksandcorks).*

## **Forks & Corks University Schedule:**

### **Vino Italia!**

*Saturday, January 28, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.*

*Michael's on East ■ \$60*

The world of Italian wines has been transformed during the last generation due to the passion and commitment of world class winemakers. Taste some of the fabulous wines that have changed the way the wine world looks at Italy. Class is followed by a four-course gourmet luncheon catered by Sarasota-Manatee Originals member restaurants. Wine pairings are included during each course.

#### **Panelists:**

WM TBA, **Allegrini**, Veneto, IT

Claudio Tipa, **Colle Massari**, Tuscany, IT

Filippo Lapides, **Valle Reale**, Abruzzo, IT

Vito Candela, **Rocca Delle Macie**, Tuscany, IT

Victoria Visinski, **Bastianich**, Fruili, IT

## The World of Pinot Noir and Cabernet is King

Saturday, January 28, 9:30 am -2:30 pm

Michael's Wine Cellar ▪ \$110

This program features a diverse selection of pinot noir wines in the morning and a four-course gourmet lunch catered by the Sarasota-Manatee Originals member restaurants featuring wine pairings with each course. Following lunch, enjoy the afternoon session sampling and learning about **Cabernet Sauvignon**.

### Morning session: "The World of Pinot Noir"

How does the **Pinot Noir** grape express itself through different soils, climates and winemaking traditions? Explore this through tasting some of the best from the regions of the Cote d'Or, Willamette Valley, and the cool California coast. A not-to-be missed session for **Pinot Noir** lovers!

#### Panelists:

Bertrand Ambroise, **Maison Bertrand Ambroise**, Burgundy, FR

Maria Ponzi, **Ponzi Vineyards**, Willamette Valley, OR

Pam Walden, **Daedalus Cellars**, Willamette Valley, OR

Bill Hatcher, **REX HILL**, Willamette Valley, OR

Christopher Barefoot, **Flowers Vineyard & Winery**, Russian River Valley, CA

Joshua Klapper, **LaFenetre Wines**, Santa Maria Valley, CA

### Afternoon session: "Cabernet is King!"

King **Cabernet** reigns in California and we have some of the big, bold ones for to explore along with the owners/winemakers. Oh yes, we're throwing in a classic Bordeaux for a little tasting fun! If you love **Cabernet**, you won't want to miss this!

#### Panelists:

Michael Honig, **Honig Vineyard**, Napa Valley, CA

Harry Wetzel IV, **Alexander Valley Vineyards**, Alexander Valley, CA

Cameron Fisher, **Fisher Vineyards**, Sonoma, CA

Robert Hall, **Robert Hall Winery**, Paso Robles, CA

Gerard Fenouillet, **Chateau Haut Bages Liberal**, Pauillac, FR

Elliot Stern, **Oakville East Exposure**, Oakville, CA

***Tickets available online only at [www.freshoriginals.com/forksandcorks](http://www.freshoriginals.com/forksandcorks)***

*For more information about the fourth annual Forks & Corks Food & Wine Festival, visit [www.freshoriginals.com/forksandcorks](http://www.freshoriginals.com/forksandcorks) or call 941-955-3663.*

### **About The Sarasota-Manatee Originals**

The Sarasota-Manatee Originals is a not-for-profit organization, founded in 2003, of more than 50 locally owned, independent restaurants in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Member restaurateurs are dedicated to preserving the culinary heritage of the Suncoast.