



# The Enthdegree

Stars come out for Napa's biggest weekend

26th annual Auction Napa Valley raises \$8.4 million for local charities

Under blue skies and surrounded by picture-perfect vineyards landscapes, some 3,000 wine lovers flocked to the 26th annual Auction Napa Valley in early June. The four-day event raised \$8.4 million for local charities. To kick off the festivities, the grounds at Trinchero Family Estates were transformed into a European-style marketplace with café-inspired al fresco seating arrangements.

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Bidders and guests enjoyed comestibles prepared by many of the valley's best-known chefs, like The French Laundry's Thomas Keller, who strolled among the crowd bearing a tray of shortbread cookies.

Keller's hungry fans included film and television star Geena Davis, who paired up with Hollywood film executive and Napa vintner Rich Frank of Frank Family Vineyards to collaborate on a live auction lot. The lot featured a walk-on role in her upcoming television film, *Commander in Chief*, based on the television show in which she plays America's first female president.

During the bidding, Davis took the stage to promote her auction lot. "I'm the fake president of the United States," she declared with mock gravity. "Now is the time to come to the aid of your country. Let's start [the bidding] at \$100,000." Koerner Rombauer, of Rombauer Vineyards, beat out the competition and landed the walk-on part in Davis's upcoming movie with a \$300,000 bid, prompting auctioneer Ursula Hermacinski to remark, "Geena, you'll have to make him secretary of defense..."

