

WHEELING FORWARD

WELCOMES YOU TO



WINE ON WHEELS

APRIL 28, 2018

WINE ON WHEELS

Wine on Wheels Grand Tasting and Silent Auction is the annual flagship fundraising event for Wheeling Forward, a non profit organization benefiting the disability community of New York City. Hundreds of wines graciously donated by notable vineyards, importers, retailers and distributors are poured by some of NYC's most esteemed sommeliers who volunteer their time for the cause. It's one of the city's up and coming premier events where you can taste, talk, learn, share and bid on exclusive experience packages and rare wines.

CHANNEL 12 EMMY NOMINATED NEWS STORY ABOUT WINE ON WHEELS AND WHEELING FORWARD



TESTIMONIALS

“Wine on Wheels is a highlight for me. It gives me a chance to share my passion for wine and my work helping people with disabilities. We could not continue to do what we do without your support.”

-Yannick Benjamin,
Co-Founder of Wheeling Forward

“You get to see so much wine talent gathered under one roof, and we’re all interacting with the crowd. I feel blessed to do what I love each day, and the fact that it allows me a platform to give back is something I don’t take for granted.”

- Matthew Conway,
Wine Director at Marc Forgione

“Wine on Wheels is a great opportunity to celebrate wine and support a great cause. The event features great wine, esteemed sommeliers, and true wine lovers from around New York.”

-Grand Cru Consulting

“I first participated back in 2012 and I’ve been back every year. There’s this moment right before it starts, where all the somms are in a huddle – that’s my favorite part. We’re all just so happy to see each other, and to put our passion for the business toward helping this exciting cause.”

- Thomas Pastuszak,
Wine Director at The NoMad

“I love coming out to pour at Wine on Wheels! The event brings together a diverse group of people from across the wine community and benefits a really worthy cause.”

-Sean Kerby,
Sommelier

“Wheeling Forward is really making a difference for people with disabilities and going above and beyond to give people hope. I’m proud to come out for the second year in a row as a wine lover and friend of the organization.”

-Jim Finkel,
Donor



WHEELING FORWARD

Co-founders Alex Elegudin and Yannick Benjamin met after sustaining spinal cord injuries in the same month. Alex was just 19 and Yannick was 25. Young and determined to persevere, Alex returned to school to become an attorney. Yannick went on to become a reputable sommelier. After years of volunteering in the disability community, Alex and Yannick decided to use their experience and networks to tackle some of the most underserved areas of need. With that idea in mind, in 2011, they founded Wheeling Forward with a group of committed board members and volunteers. The organization has become recognized as an agile, innovative, and effective group of advocates working to drive progress in the disability community.

LEARN MORE ABOUT WHEELING FORWARD



WINE ON WHEELS

Fundraising for Wheeling Forward

WINE ON WHEELS GRAND TASTING AND SILENT AUCTION

The premier annual tasting event that has garnered great reviews and incredible support from the wine community. Given the success of this tasting event Yannick and Alex decided to expand the line of events to allow for multiple opportunities for wine lovers to enjoy. These series of events have become the primary fundraising support for Wheeling Forward.

BLIND TASTING HAPPY HOUR

Guests participate in a Court of Masters style inspired blind tasting, with prizes awarded to the taster with the highest score.

CASINO AND WINE NIGHT

A black-tie poker tournament where guests can buy in or watch throughout the evening while tasting high-end wines.

RIESLING WITHOUT BORDERS

Grand Tasting featuring over 75 Rieslings from around the world served by wineries, retailers and importers. Celebrates and explores the diversity of Riesling styles from dry to sweet.

A TOAST OF FRANCE

A French-focused take on the flagship Wine on Wheels Grand Tasting, new in 2017, expected to be one of the organization's most highly anticipated events.

BURDI GALA

A partnership event that is one of the most premier Bordeaux Wine experiences in NYC ; an oppulent black-tie dinner with live auction and entertainment.

NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

Every year sommeliers from across the industry join Yannick Benjamin and Team Wheeling Forward to run in the marathon and raise funds



WINE ON WHEELS BY THE NUMBERS

125+

of NYC's top
Sommeliers

100

Participating Distributors
& Importers

60+

Participating Restaurants
and Retailers

175+

Different Wine Regions

10K

Media Viewership
& Web Traffic

\$600K

Funds Raised

11K

Glasses of Wine Served

4,000

Bottles Poured

3,000+

Attendees





The Community
Wine on Wheels Supports:



Proceeds from all Wine On Wheels events benefit those living with disabilities through Wheeling Forward’s supportive programs. Sustaining a disability is life altering. It happens in an instant and is something that nobody is prepared for. Wheeling Forward steps in to help those with disabilities that lack a support system and resources to obtain the services they need. We know that disability impacts every person’s life differently and work to address each person’s diverse needs. Wheeling Forward provides individualized support services, mentorship, and advocacy to help people achieve their goals no matter how big or small.

WATCH VIDEO 



Estimated lifetime costs due to spinal cord injury can range from **\$681,843** to over **\$3M** for a 25 year old.



Average yearly expenses can range from **\$228,566** to **\$775,567** in the first year.



87.9% of all spinal cord injured individuals are discharged from hospitals to private homes.



Estimated **99,000** wheelchair users in **New York City**



A man and a woman are sitting in a wheelchair on a boat, looking out at the water during a sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. In the background, a large ship is visible on the water.

Wheeling Forward helps individuals with disabilities navigate the health and social service systems on their way to an active life in the community. The organization helps individuals with disabilities meet their short- and long-term goals through a comprehensive set of services including a wheelchair donation program, nursing home transition advocacy, a Scholarship Fund for students with disabilities, adaptive sports programming, and the Axis Project, an innovative wellness center for those with disabilities.

More than a billion people in the world today experience disability. These people generally have poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty. This is largely due to the barriers they face in their everyday lives, rather than their disability. With your support, together we can bring change!

1 in 5

Nearly 1 in 5 People have a disability according to the U.S., Census Bureau

650M

650 million people, worldwide live with a disability. They are the world's largest minority

36.9%

The US employment rate for those with a disability is 36.9% and 79.7% for those without. The gap is a staggering 42.8%

\$22,600

The medium household income for those without disabilities is \$61,000. For those with, it is \$38,400. That is a gap of \$22,600!



HOW IS WHEELING FORWARD CHANGING LIVES?

200K

Visits at the Axis project

300+

Wheelchairs donated and mobility restored

15+

Scholarships awarded

500

Clinicians and students trained through Spinal Mobility

750+

Thrills provided through Adaptive Sports

250+

Successful transitions into community after sustaining a disability

75+

Accessible housing placements from nursing homes

150+

Families and Caregivers advised on caring for a family member with a disability

500

Individuals mentored through adapting to life with a disability

TESTIMONIALS



SPONSORSHIPS

	GRAND CRU \$50,000	PLATINUM \$20,000	GOLD \$10,000
FEATURED TITLE SPONSOR	✓		
EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO WINE ON WHEELS SOMMELIERS	✓		
PERSONALIZED PRIVATE TASTINGS	5	3	1
MENTION DURING LIVE AUCTION OR ANNOUNCEMENTS	✓	✓	✓
SPONSOR TABLE AT EVENT OR EXCLUSIVE SIGNAGE*	✓	✓	✓
LOGO IN EMAIL MARKETING LOGO ON WEBSITE SOCIAL MEDIA MENTIONS	✓	✓	✓
LOGO ON PRINTED EVENT MATERIAL LOGO ON PRINTED MAIL OUT*	✓	✓	✓
EVENT ACCESS	4 GALA DINNER PASSES* 4 VIP EVENT PASSES	2 GALA DINNER PASSES* 2 VIP EVENT PASSES	2 VIP EVENT PASSES

*select events only



SPONSORSHIPS

	PREMIER CRU \$5,000	MAGNUM \$2,500	SILVER \$1,000
MENTION DURING LIVE AUCTION OR ANNOUNCEMENTS	✓		
SPONSOR TABLE AT EVENT OR EXCLUSIVE SIGNAGE*	✓		
SOCIAL MEDIA MENTIONS	✓	✓	
LOGO IN EMAIL MARKETING	✓	✓	
LOGO ON WEBSITE	✓	✓	✓
LOGO ON PRINTED MAIL OUT*	✓		
LOGO ON PRINTED EVENT MATERIAL	✓	✓	✓
EVENT ACCESS	4 GENERAL ADMISSION EVENT PASSES	2 GENERAL ADMISSION EVENT PASSES	2 GENERAL ADMISSION EVENT PASSES

*select events only



IN-KIND SPONSORSHIPS

WINE

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

DINING

AUCTION ITEMS

PHOTO & VIDEO

MEDIA PARTNERS

EVENT SPACE

FOOD AT EVENT



WHO'S WHO OF WINE ON WHEELS

Yannick Benjamin

Yannick is a New York City-based sommelier and one of the co-founders of Wheeling Forward. In 2003, a car accident left Yannick paralyzed but did not stop him from pursuing his dreams of going on to college and becoming a world class sommelier. Yannick is currently an Advanced Sommelier with the Court of Master Sommeliers, actively working at the University Club and has additionally worked at Le Du's Wines for over seven years. Most recently Yannick starred on Esquire Network's TV show *Uncorked*.

As a para-athlete, Yannick has competed in several marathons and races including the New York, Boston, and Chicago marathons. Yannick's deep connections in the wine world have helped Wheeling Forward to build a broad base of supporters and inspired many sommeliers and wine distributors to give back to the community.



PAST SOMMELIERS



Pascaline Lepeltier,
M.S., Rouge Tomato



Michael Englemann,
M.S., The Modern



Raj Vaidya,
Daniel



Josh Nadel,
NOHO Hospitality



Dustin Wilson,
M.S., Verve Wine



Hristo Zisovski,
Altamarea Group



Caleb Ganzer,
Compagnie des
Vins Surnaturels



Laura Maniec,
M.S., Corkbuzz



Thomas Pastuszak,
NoMad Restaurant



John Ragan,
M.S., Union Square
Hospitality



Erica O'Neal,
Italienne



Victoria James,
Piora



Jordan Salcito,
Momofuku



Aldo Sohm,
La Bernardin &
Aldo Sohm Wine Bar



Mara Rudzinski,
Lafayette



IN THE PRESS

Forbes

ARTICLE ON WINE ON WHEELS

[READ HERE ▶](#)

WINEENTHUSIAST

AMERICA'S TOP 40 UNDER TASTEMAKERS,
2016 YANNICK BENJAMIN

[READ HERE ▶](#)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

ARTICLE ON YANNICK AND WHEELING FORWARD

[READ HERE ▶](#)

PUSH

LIVING.COM™

INTERVIEW WITH YANNICK

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UNCORKED

UNCORKED CLIP

[WATCH IT HERE ▶](#)

ZAGAT

THE SOMMELIER WHO FIGHTS FOR THE
RIGHTS OF THE DISABLED

[WATCH IT HERE ▶](#)



WHEELING
forward

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TAITTINGER
Reims



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THE
AXIS
PROJECT

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ZACHARY
WINE AUCTIONS, INC.



THANK YOU

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