

# Alpha Omega Winery Celebrates Money Raised for Napa Wildfire Relief & Prepares to Help Redding

By: Jennifer Boden

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*Eric O'Brien, Chris Carmichael, Alex Gonzalez and Robin Baggett of the Baggett Ranch BBQ Team. Photo Credit Bob McClenahan*

July 31, 2018 - Alpha Omega, a family-owned winery hosted two unforgettable Big Bottle Benefit BBQs over the weekend, which raised money for North Bay wildfire relief. Although the festivities just happened, the \$500-per-person seats were sold beginning last October, allowing the Alpha Omega Foundation to donate \$100,000 in January. "After the fires erupted last October throughout our area, Alpha Omega Wine Club members and other supporters asked how they could help. We immediately started selling tickets, so we could quickly get the money to the people who needed it. The Napa Valley Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund received \$95,000 and \$5,000 went to the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department," said vintner Michelle Baggett, also Executive Director of the Alpha Omega Foundation.

The Western-themed weekend celebrations featured family-style BBQ and performances by a quartet from Festival Napa Valley's Blackburn Music Academy, as well as Jeff Rickets and the Ole Dirt Road Band. Patrons enjoyed smoked whole hog, BBQ quail, smoked prime beef short ribs, seared salmon and other delights. The food was paired with delicious Alpha Omega select wines, all poured from large format bottles.



*Top Left: Michelle Baggett, Rejane Brito and Robin Baggett. Photo Credit: Adrian Mendoza*

“These two nights were a very special time for all,” said vintner Robin Baggett. “There was great music, food and wine and warm feelings of sincerity. This was a wonderful way to have fun and give a genuine thank you to our first responders and Alpha Omega supporters.”

Several patrons donated some of the \$500 tickets to first responders and Napa locals, who lost everything in the fire. Artists Kathy Tranmer and Edmund Grant, who lost their homes – and the art inside them – exhibited new paintings at the events.

“It’s wonderful that the Baggetts honored the first responders and that they have such generous people in their wine club,” said Tranmer. “It was a healing process to show my art again at Alpha Omega.”



*Top Left: Kathy Tranmer and Joel Tranmer. Top Right: Madonna Day, Michelle Baggett, Marie-Louise Clark and Robin Baggett. Photo Credit: Adrian Mendoza*

The guests were reminded that the tragedies from wildfires are ongoing, as the Carr fire continues to burn in Shasta County. In 2017, Alpha Omega raised money and donated BBQ units along with the Baggett Ranch BBQ Team to Operation BBQ Relief (OBR), a nonprofit that prepares meals for emergency personnel and evacuees. During the winery's bbqs, OBR was called to the Redding area to help with the unraveling disaster.



*Smoke in the distance during Alpha Omega Winery Event. Photo Credit: Jennifer Boden*

"What's going on in Redding and surrounding neighborhoods in Shasta County is really terrible," Robin Baggett said. "We're glad to help by donating our manpower and smokers once again. It's a little uncanny that our guys are headed to Redding right after they cooked for our celebrations honoring first responders, fire victims and the Napa Valley Community Foundation. Our Executive Chef and Pitmaster Eric O'Brien started cooking Tuesday in Redding."

Last weekend's Big Bottle Benefit was a team affair. Alpha Omega sponsored both benefits, but a number of vendors provided discounts, or waived their charges. Rion Designs, Encore Events Rentals, Festival Napa Valley, Nimbus Arts, Napa Valley Cocktail Company and Charlie Crebs all contributed.