

## A night of giving

### The 7th Bangkok Post Charity Wine Dinner impresses all with great gourmet and outstanding wines truly fit for a good cause

Published: 17/11/2014 at 06:00 AM

Newspaper section: Life

The 7th Bangkok Post Charity Wine Dinner received a high-spirited welcome and collected more than 400,000 baht to support the education of underprivileged schoolchildren across Thailand.



On the evening of Oct 27, Fifty Five restaurant at Centara Grand, CentralWorld saw a full house of philanthropic diners. The night was luxuriated by a seven-course, wine-pairing gourmet meal prepared by Emmanuel Renaut, chef patron of the much-loved, three Michelin-star restaurant Flocons de Sel in Megeve, France.

"The first year Centara Grand at CentralWorld played host to the event, we brought in a one Michelin-star chef. For the second year, we brought in a two Michelin-star chef. I said that we would bring a three Michelin-star chef for our third participation of this prestigious charitable organisation and I have certainly kept my promise," said Robert Maurer-Loeffler, hotel general manager.

The 7th edition charity dinner was warmly supported by the hotel, Gourmet One Food Service (Thailand) Co, Pernod Ricard (Thailand), G Four Fine Wines Co, Vanichwathana (Bangkok) Co, fin (Fabulous is Needed) Co; Acqua Panna & S Pellegrino and Fresh Direct (Thailand) Co.

The dinner brilliantly boasted Renaut's delicious and distinctive renditions of the Haute-Savoie region's traditional dishes prepared with fresh alpine produce. The culinary line-up included lightly smoked salsifi spaghetti with white Alba truffle; Lake Geneva burbot and perch cake; smoked, poached and roasted pigeon with mushroom polenta and juniper berry jus; and mountain-flavoured venison with root vegetable mousseline.

Renaut's five-star cuisine was paired with a magnificent repertoire of fine wines from France and Austria. The meal was wrapped up by an aesthetic platter of Flocons de Sel's signature autumn-flavour dessert and hay ice cream.

Certainly, the international crowd of benevolent epicures didn't flock the exquisitely-set, sky-high dining establishment just for the grand gastronomic pleasure alone. They were also there to lend their heart-felt support to the Bangkok Post Foundation.

Aiming to raise more funds for the foundation, GM Maurer-Loeffler also came up with the wine auctions during the dessert course — offering 10 labels of hard-to-find premium wines from world-famous wineries.

The biggest benefactor that night was Han Kedsoi. The seafood tycoon won the auctions for three bottles of 1988 Chateau Margaux at 52,000 baht, 1989 Chateau Figeac at 30,000 baht and 1992 Chateau Mouton Rothschild at 25,000 baht.

The second-highest donor was Nontana Hoontrakul, who auctioned the 2001 Chateau Latour for 40,000 baht. The third was Pichai Chuensuksawadi, the Bangkok Post's editor-in-chief, who took home the 1985 Chateau Cheval Blanc at 34,000 baht.

The other five labels auctioned that night were the 1996 Chateau Haut-Brion, 1990 Chateau Mouton Rothschild, 1997 Chateau Mouton Rothschild, 2002 Chateau Mouton Rothschild and 1993 Chateau Mouton Rothschild, which fetched 33,000 baht, 32,000 baht, 28,000 baht, 26,000 baht and 20,000 baht respectively, from high-mind wine lovers — Sopon Laosuwan, Thanakorn Wongwises, Pongsak Hoontrakul, Kornkamon Leelateeraphat and Chanchai Rakhthannanon.

The total amount of 407,102 baht from ticket selling and the wine auction was donated to the Bangkok Post Foundation, which for over three decades has helped support the education of hundreds of poor schoolchildren across the country — providing them with the opportunity to get the highest education of their ability, from primary to university levels.

