

FOOD & DRINK ||| SPIRITS |||



LET'S RAISE A GLASS
 Charles and Ali Banks at their new
 Atlanta home in Buckhead.

A Good Year

Native Atlantans Charles and Ali Banks share their impressive wines and Southern hospitality as this year's guests of honor at the High Museum Wine Auction.

| By Katie Kelly Bell | Photography by Sara Hanna |

As this year's High Museum Wine Auction special guests of honor, Charles and Ali Banks are more than just a chic couple; they're owners of an award-winning portfolio of global wines that they'll be showcasing at this year's event.

Charles made his name in the wine business by first transforming a California cattle ranch into the award-winning Jonata winery and later taking ownership (and big risks replanting vineyards) of the legendary cult wine, Screaming Eagle. After selling his partnership in Screaming Eagle, he and Ali founded Terroir Selections, a company dedicated to investing in special wine properties across the globe. The collection currently includes wines from seven countries and 14 different wine regions. Having just moved back to town, the Bankses believe that their time in

California was well spent but agreed it was time to return to Atlanta. "It's exciting to go away and make your own path, but you ultimately want to come home and share what you've done with the community you grew up in," notes Charles, who attended UGA and Westminster High School.

For the Auction this year they'll be bringing in several winemaking teams from Terroir Selections and pouring wines from Mayacamas, Whetstone, Wind Gap, Qupe and Fable. Ali breaks it all down to making connections through wine: "Our company mission statement talks about inspiring and connecting with people through the power of the tiny grape. Working with the High Museum Wine Auction is a great place to start that here in Atlanta."

GREAT GRAPES
 Sample one of the wines from the Banks' Terroir Selection: Mayacamas Cabernet Sauvignon, 2009, \$85, H&F Bottle Shop, 2357 Peachtree Road NW, 404.841.4070, hfbottleshop.com



High Museum Wine Auction

March 25-28

TICKET INFORMATION Benefactor packages range from \$2,500-\$23,000. Call Carole Ashworth at 404.733.4543 for more information.

TIME/LOCATION The Auction will be held in the tents at Atlantic Station March 28, with the Vintners' Reception starting at 11AM. However, don't miss the full range of events going on all week. atlanta-wineauction.org