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**COCKTAILS AT THE CASTLE:
CUISINE & CULTURE AT THE MERCER MUSEUM**

DOYLESTOWN, PA (October 4, 2016) – Foodies and history buffs alike will share in the excitement on Friday, October 14, as the Mercer Museum presents its fall gala, *Cocktails at the Castle: A Savory Exploration to Benefit the Mercer Museum*. The event which begins at 7:30 p.m., lets guests wind their way through the six-story castle, while tasting specialties prepared by the area’s finest culinary purveyors. The gala will also feature a Silent Auction where items up for bid include luxury vacations and Phillies World Series memorabilia.

Guests will feast on culinary specialties from returning favorites: Ann's Cake Pan, Bradley Bunch Bakery, Chaddsford Winery, Chambers 19 Bistro & Bar, The Cook & His Books, Corporate Source Catering, Cross Culture - Fine Indian Cuisine, Earl's New American, Empanada Mama, Free Will Brewing Co., Hewn Spirits, Joseph Ambler Inn, The Lucky Cupcake Company, McCoole's at the Historic Red Lion Inn, Olive Oil Etcetera, PA Soup and Seafood/Penn Taproom, Philadelphia Distilling, Plumsteadville Inn, Quinoa & El Tule, Sand Castle Winery, Wycombe Vineyards, and The Zen Den Coffee/Tea House. Participating for the first time are: Boardroom Spirits, Edible Arrangements of Doylestown, Laurie's Chocolates, Sarge's Gourmet, Saucy Sue's LLC, Stone and Key Cellars, and Zest Culinary Services.

While exploring and dining, guests will enjoy musical entertainment by Jazz It Upright, steel drummer Dave Sherick, and Where’s Pete, the award-winning, dance band featuring two dynamic lead vocalists, an airtight rhythm section and a high-energy brass section.

The Silent Auction offers a variety of exclusive items and experiences for bidding. Up for auction will be vacations in Costa Rica and Steamboat Springs, Colorado; along with getaways to Cape May and Philadelphia. Closer to home, enjoy romantic overnights at The Black Bass, Joseph Ambler Inn, and The Doylestown Inn. Unforgettable experiences include a Biplane Ride for Two over Bucks County from Van Sant Historic Airfield, a Private Guided Tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield, and Golf Foursomes at the Doylestown Country Club and The Bucks Club. Celebrate the Mercer Museum’s Centennial by bidding on a Private Party at the Mercer Museum featuring catering by Memorable Affairs and a performance by local talent Jenny Lee Stern.

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Sports collectibles on the auction block include a throwback Eagles jersey signed by Donovan McNabb; a framed, signed Richie Ashburn Hall of Fame print; a framed, signed photo of Flyers Bob Clarke and Bernie Parent; signed baseball by former Phillie Julio Franco; plus a one-of-a-kind 2008 Phillies World Series package with a framed Phillies line-up card, signed baseball, and more.

A framed, signed print of LeRoy Neiman's "World Class Skier" will be available, along with artwork by Bucks County artists including Christopher Willett, David Ohlerking, R. Louisa Wismer, June Fisher Jones and others. Items for the younger set include parties at Fabby Shabby and Art Muse, as well as the new American Girl Doll. In addition there will be incredible dining adventures, exquisite jewelry, theater packages, spa packages, and more up for bid.

Auction items can be previewed and bid on at www.bidpal.net/mercercocktails. Even those who aren't able to attend the gala can participate in the auction by bidding online.

Cocktails at the Castle also offers an opportunity to support the 2016 Mission Appeal for the Mercer Museum's Log House, a remarkable learning environment that transports visitors back in time. Thousands of school children annually experience life as it was 200 years ago, and the public engages in programs such as hearth cooking demonstrations and visiting with Santa at our annual Holiday Open House. Revenue raised will fund critical repairs of the structures, as well as provide for the replacement of interior furnishings ... all needed to enhance this unique educational experience. Donations can be made online at www.bidpal.net/mercercocktails.

Tickets for Cocktails at the Castle, beginning at 7:30 p.m., are \$150 per person. Valet parking will be available. Tickets including the pre-gala VIP Reception, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Mercer Museum's Elkins Gallery, are \$250 per person. The VIP Reception will feature food and spirit pairings created by Memorable Affairs in a festive atmosphere created by Christine Taylor Collections. Proceeds from Cocktails at the Castle support exhibitions, educational programs, and historic preservation initiatives at Mercer Museum. To purchase tickets, and securely bid on auction items prior to the gala, visit www.bidpal.net/mercercocktails or stop by the Mercer Museum reception desk. For additional information, call 215-345-0210, ext. 132.

Cocktails at the Castle is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Pinnacle Sponsors: Wells Fargo Advisors; Tower Sponsors: A to Z Party Rental and Mission Pharmacal; Spire Sponsors: Americor Press, Curtin & Heefner LLP, KBZ, a ScanSource Company, Penn Community Bank, Tom Thomas, Thompson BMW, Worth & Company, Inc.; Final Sponsors: Valerie and Barney Berlinger, Doris Hart Carr, in memory of George M. Carr III, Walter R. Dorn Estate Inc., Dontech, Dunlap & Associates, Eastburn and Gray, P.C., Lin Hodgdon and Tom Modzelewski, Joseph and Kim Jacobsen, Susan E. Kane, Keenan Motor Group - Keenan Motors & Keenan Honda, Keystone Pictures, Kilderry's Landscaping Inc., Lunch Productions, Marshall Financial Group, SIMPLY

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About the Mercer Museum

Celebrating its 100th anniversary, the Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier tourist attractions, offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America as seen through the implements used in everyday life. The Museum's collection includes more than 40,000 objects exhibiting the tools of more than 60 different crafts and trades, providing one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of material culture in America. The Mercer Museum is located at Pine Street & Scout Way in Doylestown and is open for self-guided exploration 7 days a week. For more information, call 215-345-0210, or visit: www.mercermuseum.org.

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