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Sold-Out Wine in the Warehouse Celebrates Food, Wine, and Community Development

The annual culinary fundraiser on Dec. 6 featured gourmet dishes, fine wines, and performances, contributing to the St. Croix Foundation's mission to support community development and upcoming projects like the Alexander Theatre restoration

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Wine in the Warehouse, 2024. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM

On December 6, the Bohlke International Aviation Hangar on Airport Road transformed into a culinary haven as it hosted the annual "Wine in the Warehouse" event, a highlight of the St. Croix Food & Wine Experience. Organized by the St. Croix Foundation for Community Development, this gathering serves as a significant fundraiser for the nonprofit, drawing a diverse crowd from

high-fashion enthusiasts to key community figures.

The evening, running from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., was a sold-out affair, accommodating 300 guests. Attendees indulged in a variety of culinary delights presented by local chefs, restaurateurs, and caterers, all aiming to showcase their finest offerings to potential new patrons. Complementing the gourmet selections were premium wines, generously provided by CC1, enhancing the festive atmosphere.

A standout feature of the event was the participation of renowned Virgin Islands-born chef, Digby Stridiron. Known both locally and nationally, Chef Stridiron collaborated with culinary students from St. Croix Central High School and Chef Camisha Lynch to craft dishes that celebrated the island's rich culinary heritage. One of the featured creations was a southwestern-style red grout, offering a unique twist on a traditional dessert.

Reflecting on his involvement, Chef Stridiron expressed his deep connection to the community, stating, "There's nothing more important to me than the Virgin Islands," he told the Consortium. Stridiron also shared his recent endeavors, including opening a restaurant in Phoenix, Arizona, which was honored as the city's best new restaurant.

Deanna James, president of the St. Croix Foundation, highlighted the organization's ongoing initiatives, such as the upcoming restoration of the Alexander Theatre, aiming to establish a Performing Arts Center. Board member Willard John, with 15 years of service, emphasized the event's success, noting its role in sustaining the foundation's mission and providing an elegant platform for community engagement.

Entertainment throughout the evening featured local performers, contributing to a vibrant and memorable experience that marked the beginning of the festive season on St. Croix. The event also included a silent auction, with items donated by sponsors, further supporting the foundation's community development efforts.

Since its inception, the St. Croix Food & Wine Experience has raised over \$1.5 million. The success of this year's "Wine in the Warehouse" continues this tradition, reinforcing the foundation's commitment to holistic community development.