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## Wine painter uncorks gifts for the High

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On one side of Old Hamilton Road are the sounds of parents cheering on Little League baseball teams at Oregon Park.

On the other side, buffered by the deep woods of a 2.5-acre tract, the only sound is the soft swish of a brush on canvas as artist **Thomas Arvid** works on a painting.

The Kennesaw resident has gained national acclaim for his depictions of wine and all its accessories. As the self-taught **Arvid** found his niche, he also designed a Napa Valley-inspired cottage where he can work, entertain and relax.

Standing on the latticed front porch of the wood cabin, where wine barrels serve as end tables, it's hard to believe that the bustle of Dallas Highway is less than a mile away. And once inside the door, visitors are apt to believe they've been transported to an elegant guest home on a California wine estate.

**Arvid** bought the 1970s cabin about two years ago and transformed the kitchen, sun porch, bedrooms and basement into working spaces for himself and his staff.

"As the business grew, it also outgrew my home," said **Arvid**, who lives in the Burnt Hickory Registry neighborhood. "This space was close to home but it needed some work. We put in new floors, refinished the walls, painted, added new windows and even a few new wood beams."

**Arvid** envisioned a space where he could work but also wanted a gracious atmosphere where he could entertain guests and clients.

"We redid it in the style of a Napa bed-and-breakfast," he said. "We're so far out that we thought this would be a good place to put up guests and have a laid-back, wine country experience."

Last year, **Arvid** opened the cabin to 30 diners who paid \$250 each to have a catered dinner with him and his wife, Vanessa.

The event was a fund-raiser for the High Museum, in conjunction with the museum's annual wine auction. The dinner was such a success that this year the wine auction organizers convinced **Arvid** to squeeze at least four additional guests on his sun porch Wednesday.

"Last year's dinner raised \$7,500 and on top of that, he auctioned off a painting that went for \$19,000," said Woodie Wisebram, manager of the High wine auction. "He also gave us another for the silent auction and donated wine for the auction from his collection. All told, the Arvids brought us about \$40,000."

Among last year's guests at the dinner were Jamie and Renee Kranking of Sandy Springs, who are also planning to attend the dinner Wednesday.

"We were excited to see the cabin," said Jamie Kranking, an avid **Arvid** collector and wine aficionado.

"And **Thomas** is so personable -- he just opens up the entire place so you can walk right into his studio. The whole place is so amazing you don't remember you're in Kenne- saw."

Since **Arvid's** career as a painter of wines took off 10 years ago, he has continued to donate his talent and time to the High, said Wisebram.

"When he came to us several years ago, wanting to donate something, we didn't know who he was," she said. "Now, he's hugely popular. But he's stayed with us and is one of our biggest patrons."

## Photo

Artist **Thomas Arvid** and wife Vanessa will host dinner at his rustic studio as part of the **High** Museum wine auction. / FRANK NIEMEIR / Staff

Graphic

KENNESAW: Auction to aid the **High**

More than 30 people will gather Wednesday at the Cobb County cabin of renowned artist **Thomas Arvid** (right) and his wife, Vanessa, for a sold-out dinner and art auction that will raise money for the **High** Museum of Art. It's part of the museum's annual wine auction fund-raisers.

- More on the **High**'s wine auction: Though the dinner is sold out, wine fans may be able to attend various auction events Wednesday through Saturday. For details, call 404-733-5335 or visit [www.atlanta-wineauction.org](http://www.atlanta-wineauction.org).

- More on the Arvids and their unique home, ZH11 (Teaser)