

DCWAF to auction a Tesla

HIDE CAPTION

Residents have until April 15 to vote on which 2010 Tesla Roadster Sport, black or white, they want auctions off during this year's Destin Charity Wine Auction. [SPECIAL TO THE SUN]

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The 12th year for Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation is proving to be a lucky one for the organization.

The foundation has been gifted with a 2010 Tesla to auction off during the live auction event, which takes place during the South Walton Beaches Wine & Food Fest the last of April.

The gift was made by the St. Joe Community Foundation, who also received the car as a donation from a benefactor.

"We felt that since we are both foundations, to join forces would be a great way to give back," said Janet Greeno, executive director of St. Joe Community Foundation, who noted that the foundation has never been provided with anything like this before.

To kick off the excitement, two Teslas are on display at the Watersound Origins Café. The public may go there daily and vote for which one they would rather see put up for auction on April 29 -- the white or the black. Both cars have about 5,000 miles on them.

"This gift will make this year's auction the biggest ever," said Kate Mikos, communications manager for DCWAF. "We have never had a gift this big."

Voting will conclude on April 15. Results will be released April 16 online at www.dcwaf.org.

The 2010 Tesla Roadster Sport was one of Elon Musk's first electric car series.

Included in the bid lot is a guided tour of the Tesla factory by top Tesla Engineer Olivia Adams and lunch with her; a two-night stay in a one-bedroom condo at WaterSound Beach GateHouse; kayaking or YOLO boarding for two on Lake Powell; breakfast or lunch for two at Watersound Café; a two-day pass for two to Watersound Beach Club; and a pontoon boat cruise on Lake Powell.

This year's chair of the event, George Brannon, Jr., said he is excited about this year's unique gift.

"I'm a big car guy," he said.

For more information, visit www.dcwaf.org/.

Founded in 2005, DCWAF has donated more than \$13 million to Northwest Florida charities through hosting world-class wine and culinary events, benefiting more than 75,000 youth, including those afflicted by health issues and abuse.

DCWAF has been recognized as one of the nation's Top 10 Charity Wine Auctions in the United States by "Wine Spectator" magazine for the last four years, and as connecting wine enthusiasts to raise money to benefit children in need in Northwest Florida.