

Neighbors with a Nice Mission

BY NATALIE LERNER | PHOTOS PROVIDED COURTESY OF NICE WINERY

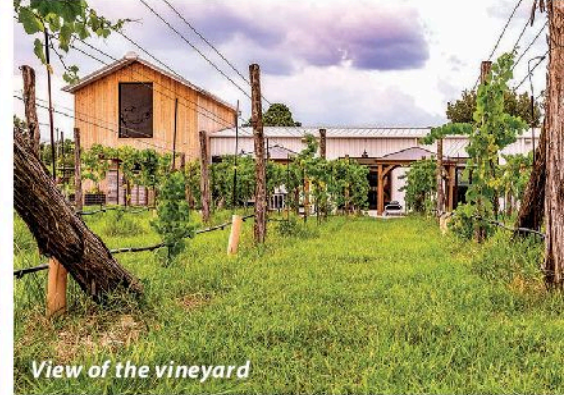
One of the most award winning wineries in Texas is located around the corner in Spring Branch. In case you missed it, Nice Winery (at the corner of Westview Drive and Lumpkin Road), won Reserve Grand Champion Best of Show in the prestigious Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo 2022 International Wine Competition. One of their bottles was auctioned off in February for \$200,000 to raise funds for college scholarships.

Nice Winery was founded over 15 years ago by Le Cordon Bleu trained Chefs and Certified Sommeliers Ryan Levy and Ian Eastveld. They now make organic and sustainably grown wine, teach wine classes, and lead culinary classes at Nice Winery's Houston headquarters for their Wine Club members. In 2019, they created and planted the first commercial winegrowing vineyard inside the city limits of Houston. Nice Winery is now home to a modern organic apiary, organic vegetable and herb gardens, and a sustainably farmed vineyard. It boasts a state of the art kitchen and production facility that has become the epicenter of wine and culinary education in Houston. Their wines have received 94 point ratings and acclaim from both *Wine Enthusiast* magazine and the Beverage Testing Institute. Nice Winery crafts 30 wines from sustainably farmed, family owned vineyards in Texas, California, Argentina, and Washington state. Their commitment to giving back includes serving on multiple foundation boards and raising over \$1M for local charitable causes through the winery's extensive philanthropic initiatives.



Rodeo Reserve Grand Champion Best of Show 2022

One such initiative is charity bottles, in which each bottle sold benefits a different charity. These include the Nice Rosé, which benefits The Rose via the Emma Jacobs Breast Cancer Foundation, the Nice Periwinkle Charity Wines benefitting the Periwinkle Foundation and their programming for children, teens and families that have endured cancer or a life threatening illness, and the "Ariana" Charity Wine benefitting OpHeart, an organization that helps save the lives of babies with congenital heart defects.



View of the vineyard

Ryan and Ian take community outreach and investment to a whole new level by also offering wine cruises for their wine club members. They love taking the extra time to get to know all of their supporters. Their wine cruises happen each year in the late summer or fall. This year they are going to Portugal's Douro River Valley for a week. The cruise is only 90 people, and they have just five cabins left for Oct. 22, 2022.

You can enjoy some of Nice Winery's Champion Award Winning Wines in one of their Premium Guided Wine Tasting Experience with Chef's Pairings! All tastings are ticketed and by appointment—due to their popularity, walk-in tastings are not an option. Book your tasting experience at nicewines.com or by calling 713-744-7444. Nice Winery is open from Noon-6pm, Tuesday-Saturday. The Winery is closed on Sundays, Mondays, and major holidays.



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Ian Eastveld, left, and Ryan Levy



A guided tasting

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Puranik Foundation Hosts Mindful Design Summer Camp

Monday-Friday, August 1-5, 2022

BY KIM PADGETT, THE PADGETT GROUP

The Puranik Foundation, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Houston, has partnered with Asia Society Texas for Mindful Design Summer Camp, a five-day professional and personal development workshop for high school students.

The Mindful Design Summer Camp will be held at Asia Society Texas Center from Monday-Friday, August 1-5, 2022 from 9am-3pm, and led by Bhakti S. Puranik, Puranik Foundation's Executive Director and certified life coach. Puranik is passionate about empowering the next generation with skills to succeed even in limited resources.

During the camp, participants will dive deep into what makes them unique. Students will use technical design skills and participate in professional development workshops to create their own brand, resume, portfolio, and highlight reel. Students will also learn methods for collaboration, team building, and creativity. The Mindful Design Summer Camp will also include leadership through mindfulness along with languages and tools to effectively discuss and critique ideas.

The Puranik Foundation, dedicated to providing educational opportunities that open minds, stimulate holistic perspectives, and inspire transformation, invites high school students ages 14-18 to register and participate in the Mindful Design Summer Camp by the deadline on July 1, 2022. The cost to participate is \$350 and lunch is included.

For more information about Puranik Foundation's Mindful

Design Summer Camp and to register, visit <http://www.puranikfoundation.org/events/mindful-design-summer-camp-2021>. The application deadline is July 1, 2022.

About the Puranik Foundation 501(c)(3)

The Puranik Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in

Houston that owns and operates the Vision International Learning Center, a school in Pune, India. The Foundation believes in providing educational opportunities that open minds, stimulate holistic perspectives, and inspire transformation. Seated on 27 acres of sustainable land, the school provides private education to underserved children grades K-12 at no cost. Housing and meals throughout the week along with a curriculum enriched with nature exploration, mindfulness practices, critical thinking exercises, and leadership training are included.

The Puranik Foundation was founded 22 years ago and is the corporate social responsibility arm of Worldwide Oilfield Machine (WOM) a global design and manufacturer of flow equipment valves for the oil and gas business. Twice a year high school and college students, as well as teachers, professors, and mindfulness practitioners from around the world are invited to visit the campus to participate in Global Service Leadership Programs hosted by the Foundation.

For more information visit www.puranikfoundation.org

