



COUNTY OF LAKE

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UKIAH HOME WINEMAKER CESAR TOXQUI ENTERS WINE INTO LAKE COUNTY HOME WINEMAKERS FESTIVAL

LAKE COUNTY, CA — Cesar Toxqui, a resident of Ukiah, will be participating in the fifth-annul Lake County Home Winemakers Festival, an event for tasting the winemaking efforts of dozens of Northern California amateurs, on Saturday, June 23, 2007, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Cesar Toxqui Cellars, the name that appears on the labels of his amateur wines, has been to the Lake County Home Winemakers Festival once before. During his previous year, he brought home a first-place ribbon for his Zinfandel, a third-place ribbon for his Cabernet Sauvignon, and a third-place ribbon for his “Cadanza,” a special blend. This year, in addition to a Pinot Noir, Toxqui will bring those same wines so that eventgoers and judges can taste the differences that have come with aging.

Toxqui, who has been with Brutacao Cellars in Hopland for 10 years, started making wine at home in 2004. Having been in the wine business for 17 years, it was a natural step. Toxqui will be participating in the Family Winemakers Festival this year in San Francisco, and he may join a Taste of Downtown in Ukiah.

The Home Winemakers Festival draws amateur winemakers from Lake County, from surrounding counties, and from throughout Northern California. During past festivals, amateurs have brought homemade wines from as far south as San Mateo County and as far north as Siskiyou County.

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Upon purchasing a CLPA commemorative wine glass for \$15, eventgoers may taste at any or all of the many amateur booths set up along the downtown area. During the festival, guests vote on their favorite wines and other categories, and People's Choice awards will be presented at the end of the day to winners.

In the morning before the festival begins, a professional judging panel will choose winners in several categories.

Local commercial wineries, including EdenCrest Vineyards, Dusinberre Cellars, Rosa d'Oro, Shannon Ridge Winery, Sol Rouge, Steele Wines, and Wildhurst and also will be present to support CLPA's event, and some will even pour their wines for tasting.

Wine isn't all that's on the menu, however. Local purveyors will be selling food during the festival, including John's Market, the Saw Shop Gallery Bistro, Riviera Hills Restaurant & Lounge, Studebakers, and St. Peter's Catholic Church serving Mexican food — all from Kelseyville.

A silent auction will take place during the festival with many donated items — some including overnight stays, wines from commercial wineries in attendance, and wine-related items. A number of artists and artist groups also will set up booths to demonstrate their artistic processes, as well as exhibit and sell their art.

Local pianist David Neft will perform during the festival as well as a headliner to be announced. The music of the day will be light jazz, bluegrass, folk, and similar genres.

A benefit for Clear Lake Performing Arts (CLPA), the Home Winemakers Festival is sponsored by the Kelseyville Business Association and CLPA, as well as the Lake County Winegrape Commission.

The Lake County Home Winemakers Festival will be held in the central downtown area, on Main Street in Kelseyville. For more information on the Lake County Home Winemakers Festival or to register as an amateur winemaker, contact Ed Bublitz, (707) 277-8172.

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