



## **COUNTY OF LAKE**

### **MARKETING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 5, 2009

### **FIFTH-ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TULIPS**

#### **CELEBRATES WINE AND THE BEAUTY OF TULIPS**

**NICE, CA** — The fifth-annual Festival of Tulips will be held March 28, 2009, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Tulip Hill Winery in Nice. The event will feature wine, food, and entertainment set amid the winery's gardens that bloom each year with more than 30,000 tulips imported from Holland.

Admission to the Festival of Tulips includes a Tulip Hill wine glass for unlimited tastings, sumptuous hors d'oeuvres from the Blue Wing Saloon & Café paired with red and white wines, desserts from Angelina's Bakery paired with dessert wines, live blues music provided by Bill Noteman and the Rockets, winery tours, barrel tasting, and more.

During the event, tours of the winery will include the crush pad, the cellar, the bottling room, and everywhere in between. Special deals on wine and wine-related products will be offered during the festival.

Tulip Hill Winery opened in 2004 on the site where the Bartlett Springs Water Bottling Plant once operated. The first owners of Bartlett Springs began bottling mineral water as early as the 1870s, claiming the water cured many ailments. Revered in Europe as well as the United States, the famous plant, which drew thousands of tourists to Lake County in the 1800s, had changed hands over the years, and closed down in the late 20th century. It wasn't until the Brown family arrived that the historic site would once again have a purpose — this time for the production of wine.

In addition to its winery and tasting room in Nice, Tulip Hill Winery operates a second tasting room in Rancho Mirage, near Palm Springs in Southern California.

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Tickets to the Festival of Tulips are \$25 per person per day in advance and may be purchased online; or \$30 at the door. Tulip Hill Winery is located at 4900 Bartlett Springs Road, Nice. For more information, call (707) 274-9373 or visit [www.tuliphillwinery.com](http://www.tuliphillwinery.com).

Lake County is part of the North Coast AVA, which also encompasses Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties. Within Lake County, five other AVAs exist — Clear Lake AVA, Benmore Valley AVA, Guenoc AVA, and the recently approved Red Hills AVA and High Valley AVA.

Located in beautiful Northern California, Lake County is just two hours by car from the San Francisco Bay Area, the Sacramento Valley, and the Pacific Coast. Lake County is home to Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in California and possibly the oldest lake on the continent. Visitors to Lake County experience the state's cleanest air basin, spectacular scenic beauty, fine wines, headliner concerts, and unsurpassed recreational opportunities — from hiking, biking, golf, and off-road adventures to boating, fishing, kayaking, birding, and even rockhounding. The local area code is 707. For visitor information, contact the Lake County Visitor Information Center at (800) 525-3743 or [www.lakecounty.com](http://www.lakecounty.com).

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