



COUNTY OF LAKE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2009

SEVENTH-ANNUAL HOME WINEMAKERS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD JUNE 27 IN DOWNTOWN KELSEYVILLE

KELSEYVILLE, CA — The winemaking efforts of more than 30 talented home winemakers from Lake County and across California will be available for tasting at the seventh-annual Home Winemakers Festival on Saturday, June 27, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The event is a benefit for the Clear Lake Performing Arts (CLPA), and the purchase of a commemorative wine glass will allow event goers to taste any or all of the wines from the amateur winemakers at booths set up along Main Street in historic downtown Kelseyville. New this year is the addition of a home brew competition.

In the morning before the festival begins, a professional judging panel will choose winners in several categories. Craig Renaud, one of the top wine brokers in California, wine critic, and author of "Great American Wine: The Wine Rebel's Manual," will once again serve as one of the judges at this year's Lake County Home Wine Makers Festival and will be available on the day of event to answer event-goers questions about wine.

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.

Local commercial wineries, including Brassfield Estate Winery, Cesar Toxqui Cellars, Dusinger Cellars, EdenCrest Vineyards, High Valley Vineyard, Langtry Estate & Vineyards, Rosa d'Oro Vineyards, Shannon Ridge Vineyards & Winery, Steele Wines Inc., Wildhurst Vineyards, and Tulip Hill Winery & Vineyards will be present to support CLPA's event, and some will even pour their wines for tasting.

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Wine isn't all that's on the menu, however. A category for home-brewed beers has been added and will be available for sampling as well. In addition, local purveyors will be selling food during the festival, including John's Market, the Saw Shop Gallery Bistro, Studebakers, and St. Peter's Catholic Church serving Mexican food and more — all from Kelseyville.

A silent auction will take place during the festival with many donated items — including a timeshare stay in Hawaii, some 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 and Friends will perform during the festival. The music of the day will be light jazz, bluegrass, folk, and similar genres.

A benefit for CLPA, the Home Winemakers Festival is sponsored by the Kelseyville Business Association and CLPA, as well as the Lake County Winegrape Commission. For more information on the Lake County Home Winemakers Festival or to register as an amateur winemaker, contact Ed Bublitz, (707) 277-8172.

Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$15 from Catfish Books, 1013 11th Street in Lakeport, High Valley Vineyard tasting room, 13151 E. State Highway 20, Clearlake Oaks, Shannon Ridge Vineyards & Winery tasting room, 12599 E. Highway 20, Clearlake Oaks, Wild About Books, 14290 Olympic Drive in Clearlake, or Wildhurst Vineyards tasting room, 3855 Main Street, Kelseyville. Tickets will be \$20 on the day of the event.

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.

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