



COUNTY OF LAKE

MARKETING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2009

SPOTLIGHT ON HOLIDAY AND WINTER EVENTS IN LAKE COUNTY, CA NOVEMBER 2009 – FEBRUARY 2010

LAKE COUNTY, CA – The friendly, country atmosphere in Lake County grows even cozier as winter approaches and family and friends gather to celebrate the holiday season. It's what makes annual events feel more authentic here. Even the season's blustery chill is warmed by the strong sense of community as main streets bustle with locals and visitors strolling shops and craft fairs and gathering for holiday light parades and tree lightings.

NOVEMBER

Victorian Christmas Faire & High Tea, Lakeport

November 1 – December 16, 2009

Seventh-annual Christmas Faire with handmade candy canes, dolls, candles, French soaps, tea pots, carolers, holiday decorations, and more for sale. Hot tea for all visitors. 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tea servers in full Victorian costume serve traditional English High Tea with Devonshire cream, tarts and tiny sandwiches at noon and 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during the faire. Faire admission is free; fee for high tea. Reservations strongly recommended. Lakeport English Inn, 675 N. Main Street. (707) 263-4317, www.lakeportenglishinn.com

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Holiday in the Pines Galleria, Cobb

November 7 – 15, 2009

Seventh-annual event featuring unique works of art and arts and crafts in a boutique setting for sale. Sponsored by Cobb Mountain Artists. Benefit for the Cobb Mountain Elementary School Art Program. Free admission. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends; noon. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. Haute Spot, Hardester's Shopping Center, 16295 Highway 175. (707) 928-6461, (707) 928-8565.

Clear Lake Performing Arts Fall Symphony, Lakeport

November 22, 2009

The Lake County Symphony Orchestra performs. Sponsored by and a benefit for Clear Lake Performing Arts. Admission to concert is \$20 for general public; \$15 for members. Children 18 and under are free. 3:00 p.m. Clear Lake High School, 350 Lange Street. (707) 279-0877, www.clearlakeperformingarts.org

Dickens' Christmas Market, Lakeport

November 28, 2009

Annual Christmas event transforms Lakeport into an old English village, complete with costume-clad characters, food booths, and entertainment, as well as an all-day Christmas market from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Lighted parade begins at 6:00 p.m. and tree lighting follows at 7:00 p.m. Main Street. (707) 263-5092, www.lakecochamber.com

DECEMBER

Middletown Tree Lighting Ceremony, Middletown

December 4, 2009

The 19th-annual tree lighting ceremony includes caroling, dancers, free photos with Santa, crafts, food, and face painting. The event will take place at the Middletown Central Park beginning at 5:30 p.m. and will feature the 4-H Community Christmas Choir. Presented by the Middletown Central Park Association. (707) 987-3373.

Christmas in the Country, Kelseyville

December 4, 2009

Old-fashioned country Christmas featuring a parade of lights and downtown merchants' open house. Eventgoers are invited to enjoy hot cider, hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, and other hors d'oeuvres with Kelseyville merchants, as well as a lighted parade, a visit from Santa Claus, and a tree lighting at the firehouse. A chowder and chili dinner, provided by the Kelseyville Presbyterian Church, will be held in conjunction with the event. Rides in a lighted, mule-drawn holiday carriage. Sponsored by Kelseyville Business Association. 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Parade begins at 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Main Street. (707) 349-6633, www.visitkelseyville.com

Christmas Light Parade, Upper Lake

December 5, 2009

Sixteenth-annual tree lighting presentation, plus holiday light parade at 7:00 p.m., photos with Santa, caroling, a 4-H barbecue, and refreshments. Sponsored by Westamerica Bank and the Upper Lake Community Council. Benefit for the Upper Lake Auxiliary Fire Department Toy Drive. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Main Street. Free admission. (707) 262-5714.

Clearlake's Downtown Christmas Parade of Lights, Clearlake

December 5, 2009

Themed floats wind their way through downtown Clearlake, lighting up the winter night. This festive family evening also includes a Tree of Life event presented by Hospice of Lake County. Parade begins at Redbud Park at 6:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce. (707) 994-3600, www.clearlakechamber.com

Holiday Tree Lighting, Hidden Valley Lake

December 5, 2009

Twelfth-annual celebration featuring pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, musical entertainment, horse-drawn trolley rides, face painting, refreshments, and fireworks. Sponsored by the Hidden Valley Lake Association. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tree lighting at 6:00 p.m. Greenview Restaurant, 19210 Hartmann Road. Free admission. (707) 987-3138, www.hvla.com

Renaissance Christmas Pageant Experience, Middletown

December 4 – 6 and 11 – 13, 2009

Sixteenth-annual pageant features a three-course dining experience around which a lively costumed drama unfolds. The evening is highlighted with delicious food, Renaissance and traditional Christmas music, gorgeous sets, dancing, and games. The audience becomes the honored guests at the Castle of Lord Greystone. Costumes are frequently worn by guests (but not required). The Pageant is produced by the Middletown Community United Methodist Church and community players. Advance tickets are \$30 per person until November 23; \$35 per person thereafter. "Greystone Castle" is located at 15843 Armstrong Street at Washington Street, one block east of Highway 29. (707) 987-3379,

www.middletownmethodist.org

Christmas Bird Count, Countywide

December 19, 2009

Lake County is known for its incredible birding opportunities, and the annual Christmas bird count gives nature enthusiasts the opportunity to take part in the Audubon Society's longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas bird count, which happens across the western hemisphere.

www.redbudaudubon.org

Christmas Celebration Concert, Lakeport

December 20, 2009

Performance by the Lake County Symphony Orchestra. Sponsored by and a benefit for Clear Lake Performing Arts. 3:00 p.m. Clear Lake High School, 350 Lange Street. Admission is \$20 for general public; \$15 for members. (707) 279-0877, *www.clearlakeperformingarts.org*

Dessert Wines & Bubbly, Kelseyville

December 24 and December 31, 2009

Celebrate the holiday season by sampling dessert wines including ports, late harvests, bubbly, and more. Stephanie Cruz-Green, certified sommelier and owner of Focused on Wine, a boutique store and wine bar with a fine selection of cheeses, wines, and more, will create two flights – one for dessert wines, one for sparkling wines. \$10 per person. 3940 Main Street. (707) 279-2112, *www.focusedonwine.com*

New Year's Eve Spectacular, Kelseyville

December 31, 2009

Twentieth-annual event features four different parties, each with a different type of music—an orchestra, rock band, blues band, and country music band. All-inclusive packages feature an “All You Can Eat” Baron and Seafood Buffet, cocktails, champagne, and party favors. 9:00 p.m. Topped off by the annual New Year's Day “All That Jazz” Champagne Brunch. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Konocti Harbor Resort and Spa, 8727 Soda Bay Road, Kelseyville. (707) 279-4281, 800-660-LAKE, www.konoctiharbor.com

JANUARY

Ice Bowl Disc Golf, Lakeport

January 30, 2010

Singles tournament. Presented by Disc Golf World News and sponsored by Highland Springs Basket Cases. 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Canned food drive and benefit for Lake County Community Action Agency's food cupboard held the last Saturday of January each year. Highland Springs Disc Golf Course, 3600 E. Highland Springs Road. \$15 entry fee. Rain or shine. (707) 263-3210.

FEBRUARY

Wine & Chocolate, Lakeport

February 13, 2010

Taste ultra-premium Lake County wines – everything from pear champagne to award-winning Syrah and Port – and luscious chocolates masterfully paired by certified sommelier Stephanie Cruz-Green, owner of Focused on Wine. Support Lake Family Resource Center programs and services while enjoying wine, chocolate, food, music, wine- and olive oil-related workshops, wine store, and silent auction. Noon to 4:00 p.m. Mt. Konocti Growers, 2550 Big Valley Road. Admission is \$35 per person in advance; \$40 at the door. (707) 262-1611.

Winter Music Festival, Lakeport

February 27 – 28, 2010

The 17th-annual Winter Music Festival showcases the talent of local musicians and performers. Sponsored by and a benefit for the Lake County Arts Council. Saturday performance: 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinee: 2:00 p.m. Soper-Reese Community Theatre, 275 S. Main Street. Tickets: \$15 general admission, \$20 reserved. (707) 263-0577, www.lakecountyartscouncil.com

ONGOING

Teddy Bear Reunion, Upper Lake

Thanksgiving through January 2

A Lake County tradition for nearly 30 years, holiday magic is everywhere as the entire town of Upper Lake is decorated with teddy bears throughout the holiday season. This year's theme is "South of the Border" and sponsored by the Upper Lake Community Council. A benefit for the Holiday Light Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting. Downtown shops on Main Street. (707) 275-2309.

Concerts with Conversations, Upper Lake

Last Friday of the month, January through May

Monthly concert series January – May features live music in an intimate setting with sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and wine. A benefit for the Soper-Reese Community Theatre Fund. An informal concert and dialogue with the artist follows wine, hearty appetizers, and coffee with dessert. Tallman Hotel, 9550 Main Street. Reservations are suggested as seating is limited. (707) 275-2244, www.tallmanhotel.com

Tuscan Village Music & Art Series, Lower Lake

Fridays, year round

Live music every Friday evening by great performers. Great food, wine tasting, and arts and crafts. Outdoors in the orchard during nice weather; inside during other seasons. Presented by 2Goombas Deli and Terrill Cellars. \$5 suggested donation. Main Street. (707) 994-3354, www.terrillcellars.com

Guided Bird & Nature Walks, Lakeport

Saturdays, year round

The Lake County Land Trust hosts guided bird and nature walks at the Rodman Slough Preserve on Saturdays. The walks, which last 90 minutes, begin at 8:00 a.m. June – August, and 9:00 September – May. Free admission. 6350 Westlake Road, off Highway 29, near the Cutoff. (707) 279-0923, (707) 995-1398, www.lakecountylandtrust.org

Winemaker Dinner Series, Kelseyville

First Tuesday of each month

The Saw Shop Gallery Bistro features a local or regional wine paired with a special menu highlighting the

wine on the first Tuesday of each month. Dine al fresco on the wraparound porch or inside where walls of the circa-1902 building are festooned with local art. Saw Shop Gallery Bistro, 3825 Main Street. (707) 278-0129, www.sawshopbistro.com

Meet the Winemaker Series, *Upper Lake*

First Friday of each month

The Blue Wing Saloon & Café hosts the owner and/or winemaker of one of the great Lake County wineries whose vintages are featured on the wine list on the first Friday of each month. Special menu items for that day are carefully paired with the featured wines. Blue Wing Saloon & Café, 9520 Main Street. (707) 275-2233, www.bluewingsaloon.com

Meet the Winemaker/Artist, *Upper Lake*

First Friday and Saturday of each month

On the first Friday and Saturday of the month, the Lake County Wine Studio (LCWS) showcases a local winery as the featured tasting for the evening. Local artists – photography, painting, and more – also will be featured. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. LCWS, 9505 Main Street. (707) 275-8030.

First Friday Fling, *Lakeport*

First Friday of each month

A reception spotlighting artists currently showing in the Main Street Gallery, with music, hors d'oeuvres, and wine; student gallery open. Sponsored by the Lake County Arts Council. 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Main Street Gallery, 325 N. Main Street. Free. 707-263-6658, www.lakecountyartscouncil.com

Fondue Friday, *Upper Lake*

Second, third, and fourth Friday of each month

On the second, third, and fourth Friday of the month, the Lake County Wine Studio (LCWS) will offer a selection of fondue pots, along with different Lake County wines. LCWS pours wines from more than 20 Lake County wineries with a rotating tasting menu of eight to 10 wines each week, with more than 40 wines available for purchase by the bottle. LCWS, 9505 Main Street. (707) 275-8030.

Windows to the Universe, Kelseyville

Telescope observing and planetarium show at the Taylor Observatory. Third Saturday of each month.

8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. \$3 suggested donation. Taylor Observatory, 5725 Oak Hill Lane, Kelseyville.

(707) 262-3499, www.taylorobservatory.org

TOURS

Lake County Wine Tours, Countywide

Year round by reservation

Guests taste award-winning wines at a variety of tasting rooms, as well as out in the vineyards amid spectacular views of Clear Lake and the surrounding countryside. Tours include comfortable seating in a 16-passenger motor coach, a knowledgeable guide, all tasting fees, and a gourmet lunch to further stimulate the palate. Reservations required. (707) 998-4471, www.lakecountywinetours.com

Langtry Estate and Vineyard Tours, Middletown

Tuesday – Saturday, year round

Guided tours of the historic vineyard travel to the higher elevation of Tephra Ridge for spectacular views of Guenoc Valley. Tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Includes picnic-style lunch in the vineyard and wine tasting. \$45 per person. 48-hours advance reservations required.

21000 Butts Canyon Road, Middletown. (707) 987-2385, www.langtryestate.com

Tallman Hotel Wine Touring Package, Upper Lake

Year round by reservation

Guests of the hotel can enjoy this five-hour limousine tour with a personable and knowledgeable driver.

Guests can choose a guaranteed private tour or a shared tour with others, up to eight guests total. Book the tour and a room by contacting the hotel. Gratuity to driver not included. Add picnic lunch box for \$20 per person. Tallman Hotel, 9550 Main Street. (866) 708-5253, (707) 275-2244, or www.tallmanhotel.com

Tulip Hill Winery Tours, Nice

Saturdays year round

Guided tour of the winery's production of world-class wines offered every Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Admission is free. Tulip Hill Winery, Highway 20 at Bartlett Springs Road. (707) 274-9373,

www.tuliphillwinery.com

RELEASE: Spotlight on Holiday and Winter Events

RELEASE DATE: September 8, 2009

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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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