



COUNTY OF LAKE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2009

SPOTLIGHT ON SPRING EVENTS IN LAKE COUNTY, CA
MARCH 2009 – MAY 2009

MARCH

Wine Tasting and Art Show, *Clearlake*

March 7

Seventeenth-annual event featuring wine by local vintners, exhibitions by local artists, and live music. Sponsored by the Park Study Club; a benefit for the club's scholarship fund. \$20 per ticket. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Best Western El Grande Inn, 15135 Lakeshore Drive. (707) 995-9316.

Pruning and Pastries, *Lower Lake*

March 7

Six Sigma Ranch, Vineyards & Winery hosts "Pruning 101," from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Vineyard Manager David Weiss demonstrates hands-on winter pruning. \$10 per person, pastries will be served. Reserve a space by March 5. 13372 Spruce Grove Road. (707) 994-2086, www.sixsigmaranch.com

Holder Ford Team Tournament, *Lakeport*

March 14 – 15

Considered by some to be the most popular event on Clear Lake, the laid-back atmosphere draws pro and amateur teams alike. Entry fees for this 22nd-annual tournament are \$100 per team, plus \$50 for the Big Fish Option or add \$50 for the Big Bag Option. The teams especially appreciate the 100 percent payback in prizes on the entry fees for the event. Sponsored by Holder Ford and the Lakeport Regional Chamber of Commerce. The host lodging facility is Skylark Shores Resort, and the teams put in at Library Park. (707) 263-5603, www.lakeportchamber.com

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St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Kelseyville

March 14

The Moore Family Winery hosts a St. Patrick's Day celebration at the tasting room; catered by Molly Brennans, a local Irish pub in Lakeport. The three-course meal, with a choice of appetizer and entrée, includes dessert and a complimentary glass of wine. Live Irish music. \$40 per person, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. 11990 Bottle Rock Road. (707) 738-0507, www.moorefamilywinery.com

Festival of Tulips, Nice

March 28

Fifth-annual event will feature wine, food, and entertainment set amid Tulip Hill Winery's gardens blooming with 50,000 tulips imported from Holland. Admission includes a Tulip Hill wine glass for unlimited tastings, sumptuous hors d'oeuvres from several upscale Lake County restaurants, live music, winery tours, and demonstrations. During the winery tours, guests will explore the crush pad, cellar, and bottling room as the tour guide explains the winemaking process. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Tulip Hill Winery, 4900 Bartlett Springs Road. (707) 274-9373, www.tuliphillwinery.com

Wine Tasting Basics, Kelseyville

March 29

Enjoy the wines of the Moore Family Winery as sommelier Gary Johnson teaches the basics of wine tasting, served with hors d'oeuvres to compliment the wine. 11990 Bottle Rock Road, Kelseyville. (707) 738-0507, www.moorefamilywinery.com

APRIL

Historic Family Ranch Trip: The Wildflower Tour, Clearlake Oaks

April 1 – 30

Wildflowers are the highlight of April's daytrips as guests experience a 90-minute narrated mule-drawn wagon ride that meanders through a valley rich with history, wildlife, and other flora and ends with an authentic chuckwagon barbecue, complete with Dutch oven cobbler and complimentary Lake County wine. Eleven Roses Ranch. (707) 998-4471, www.elevenrosesranch.com

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Girls Just Wanna Have Wine, Kelseyville

April 3

A fun event to celebrate women, Wildhurst Vineyards invites sisters, friends, mothers, and aunts to join one another for an evening of wine tasting and celebration. Appetizers will be served; small fee.

Wildhurst Vineyards, 3855 Main Street. (707) 279-4302, (800) 595-WINE, or www.wildhurst.com

Wine Sensory, Nice

April 18, 25, and May 2

Get your palate dialed-in at Tulip Hill Winery as participants learn to recognize different components of wine. Learn to understand the elusive “aroma wheel,” identify flawed wines, experience the mysteries revealed in blind tastings, and more in a three-session course. Designed for both the novice and experienced wine lover, take just one class or enroll in all three. April 18 and 25, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., \$35 each; May 2, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., \$60. Register for all three sessions for \$120. Tulip Hill Winery, 4900 Bartlett Springs Road. (707) 274-9373, www.tuliphillwinery.com

Heron Festival & Wildflower Brunch, Kelseyville

April 25 – 26

This fun, family-oriented weekend in its 15th year features pontoon boat tours, birding and nature walks, nature talks and exhibits, and children’s activities. The Wildflower Brunch will be held on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Reservations are requested. Ninety-minute pontoon boat bird-watching excursions will be held between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Reservations are required. The Clear Lake State Park Visitor Center will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday with interpretive displays of Lake County’s natural and cultural resources. Speaker presentations, slide shows, and videos on local birds and wildlife will be held at the Visitor Center Auditorium. Presented by the Redbud Audubon Society and the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association. Admission to the park and event are free; pontoon boat tours and brunch are \$15 each. 5300 Soda Bay Road. (800) LAKESIDE, www.heronfestival.org

MAY

Spring Art at the Cottages, Lucerne

May 2

The Harbor Village Artists invites the public to “Discover the Artist in You” when the four galleries give

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demonstrations and answer questions on the many facets of art. From the traditional mediums of oils, pastels, watercolors, and chalk, to gourds, abalone, Native American, designer clothing, tiles, custom jewelry, couture hats, and one-of-a-kind furniture. Free. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 6193 E. Hwy 20. (707) 274-2346.

Mother's Day High Tea, Lakeport

May 3, 4, 7, 10, and 11

Traditional English afternoon high tea with a "Miniature Quilts" show and prizes for best Mother's Day corsage. Enjoy scones, Devonshire cream, tiny sandwiches, tarts, and cakes. Pre-order a gift for mom, \$15.50. Served at noon and at 2:30 p.m. Reservations required. \$22.50 per person. Lakeport English Inn, 675 North Main Street. (707) 263-4317, www.lakeportenglishinn.com

Lakeport Yacht Club Spring Regatta 2009, Lakeport

May 15 – 17

A weekend of sailing, including three sailboat races on Saturday and two on Sunday. Friday night begins with a welcome dinner at 6:30 p.m. prepared by the Lakeport Yacht Club; cost is \$10 per person. Races begin at noon Saturday and Sunday. Following the races Saturday at 6:30 p.m, a tri-tip dinner will be served; cost for dinner is \$15 per person. An awards banquet will be held Sunday afternoon following the races. Registration is \$25 per entry. All other clubs from the region, including those in Lake, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties, are invited to attend. Sponsored by the Lakeport Yacht Club. North boat ramp, 15 Fifth Street. (707) 739-7285.

Catfish Derby, Clearlake Oaks

May 15 – 17

"The largest catfish derby west of the Mississippi" and a benefit for community projects, the 26th-annual Catfish Derby features both an Adult Derby, with a grand prize of a new boat, motor, and trailer, plus cash prizes; and a Kids Derby for those 16 years old and younger, with the winner receiving a four-wheel ATV. The event will be held from noon Friday through noon Sunday. Early registration will be from noon to 11:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, for \$40. Registration also will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15, for \$45. No registrations will be accepted after 11:00 p.m. Friday. Registration is \$10 for kids. Barbecues, which are included with registration, will be held both Saturday and Sunday, with a Saturday breakfast also planned. Sunday will feature live music. Sponsored by the Clearlake Oaks/Glenhaven Business Association. 12655 E. Highway 20. (707) 998-3795, www.clearlakeoaks.org

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Tulip Hill Winery Concert in the Garden, *Nice*

May 16

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy music in the garden. Doors open at 3:00 p.m.; music 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. \$10 includes wine tasting with food pairing and admission. 4900 Bartlett Springs Road. (707) 274-9373, www.tuliphillwinery.com

Lake County Passion Play, *Lakeport*

May 16 – 17

This annual outdoor play re-enacting the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ is now in its 28th year. No entrance fee; spectators are asked to bring their own chairs. Beltramo Ranch, 7010 Westlake Road. (707) 279-0349, www.lakecountypassionplay.org

Memorial Day Parade & Celebration, *Lakeport*

May 23

Annual community celebration, featuring an arts and crafts show and Memorial Day Parade. Main Street, Lakeport. (707) 263-5092, www.lakeportchamber.com

Lower Lake Memorial Day Parade and Barbecue, *Lower Lake*

May 24

Annual horse parade, pet parade, awards and prizes, live music and dancing, and artists and crafters. Barbecue from noon to 3:00 p.m. Horse rides by Wiloth Equine Therapy. Sponsored by Lower Lake Community Action Group. Benefit for Lower Lake High School and community. Admission is free. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Russell Rustici Park. 16375 Second Street. (707) 995-2515.

Car Roundup, *Lakeport*

May 30

Eighteenth-annual car show with food, entertainment, vendors, music, and awards. Sponsored by the Lake County No Name Car Club. Benefit for local charities. Registration is from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Awards ceremony is from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. Park Street, Library Park. (707) 262-1508, www.nonamecars.com

Wood & Glory, *Lakeport*

May 30

Annual event featuring more than 60 classic wooden boats on Clear Lake. Photography is encouraged and

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guests vote on their favorite boat, thereby entering a drawing for a commemorative Wood & Glory poster. Sponsored by the Lakeport Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Antique Classic Boat Society. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The docks at Library Park. Admission is free; fee for barbecue. (707) 263-5092, www.lakeportchamber.com

ONGOING

Monday Night Blues, Upper Lake

Monday evenings

Great musicians play the blues inside the Blue Wing Saloon & Café. Guests are welcomed to dinner at a cozy table indoors, sit down for a drink or appetizers at the handcrafted walnut bar, or appreciate the stars outside in the heated veranda. 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 9520 Main Street. (707) 275-2233, www.bluwingsaloon.com

First Friday Fling, Lakeport

First Friday of the month

Reception spotlighting artists currently showing in the gallery, with music, hors d'oeuvres, and wine sponsored by one of Lake County's wineries. Student gallery also open. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Main Street Gallery, 325 N. Main Street. (707) 263-6658, www.lakecountyartscouncil.com

Meet the Winemaker Series, Upper Lake

First Friday of the 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. Special menu items for that day are carefully paired with the featured wines. Blue Wing Saloon & Café. 9520 Main Street. (707) 275-2233, www.bluwingsaloon.com

Winemaker Dinner Series, Kelseyville

First Tuesday of the month

The Saw Shop Gallery Bistro features a local or regional wine paired with a special menu highlighting the wine. Dine al fresco on the wrap-around 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

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Beer Masters Dinner Series, Lakeport

Second Tuesday of the month

Molly Brennans hosts a specially prepared Irish-influenced menu on the second Tuesday of every month. Each course is masterfully paired with a different beer from that evenings' featured brewery. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Advanced reservations required. 175 N. Main Street. (707) 262-1600, www.mollybrennans.com

Tuscan Village Music & Art Series, Lower Lake

Friday evenings

Live music by Lake County performers, great food, wine tasting, and arts and crafts. Outdoors in the orchard during summer; inside other seasons. Presented by 2Goombas Deli and Terrill Cellars. Main Street. (707) 994-3354, www.terrillcellars.com

Guided Nature Walks, Lakeport

Saturday mornings

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 9:00 a.m. September – May, 8:00 a.m. June – August. Free admission. 6350 Westlake Road, off Highway 29, near the Nice-Lucerne Cutoff. (707) 279-0923, (707) 994-2024, www.lakecountylantrust.org

Windows to the Universe, Kelseyville

Third Saturday of each month

Telescope observing and planetarium show at the Taylor Observatory, 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Suggested donation \$3. 5725 Oak Hill Lane. (707) 262-3499, www.taylorobservatory.org

Concerts with Conversations, Upper Lake

Last Friday of the month, January through May

Monthly concert series on the last Friday of the month features live music in an intimate setting. The evening begins with sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and wine, followed by an informal concert and dialogue with the artist. A benefit for the Soper-Reese Community Theatre Fund for the creation of a state-of-the-art performing arts center in Lakeport. Tallman Hotel, 9550 Main Street. Reservations are suggested as seating is limited. (707) 275-2244, www.tallmanhotel.com

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Historic Family Ranch Day Trip, Clearlake Oaks

April through October

Guests travel on a 90-minute narrated mule-drawn wagon ride that meanders through a valley rich with history, wildlife, and magnificent wildflowers during the spring. The ride ends with an authentic chuckwagon barbecue, complete with Dutch oven cobbler. Complimentary Lake County wine served.

Eleven Roses Ranch. (707) 998-4471, www.elevenrosesranch.com

Bird and Nature Walks, Kelseyville

Second and Fourth Saturdays, May through August

Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association offers alternating bird and nature walks on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from May through August. Meet at the Visitor Center ramp at 8:30 a.m. Clear Lake State Park, 5300 Soda Bay Road. Free park entrance for walks. (707)279-2267.

Kelseyville Certified Farmers' Market, Lakeport

Saturdays, May through October

Local farmers offer their finest, freshest produce, eggs, baked goods, and cheeses. Live music, 8:30 a.m. to noon. First Saturday in May through last Saturday in October. Steele Wines, 4350 Thomas Drive.

Tasting room opens early on Saturdays with the market. (707) 263-4211,

www.lakecountyfarmersfinest.org

TOURS

The Wine Country Trail Ride at Cowboy Hideaway Lodge, Upper Lake

By Reservation

Offering a California Wine and Equine Tour, Cowboy Hideaway is a 750-acre ranch studded with woods and vineyards and exceptional views of Clear Lake from a newly built log cabin lodge that features comfortable rooms, large inviting sitting areas with enormous fireplaces, and beautiful sunsets from the outdoor decks. On three- to six-day guided tours, guests ride through the dramatic scenery of Lake County vineyards, along the Pacific Coast, and more. Guests enjoy local and regional cuisine, including private tours and tastings of award-winning wines in Lake, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties. (707) 295-7110, www.cowboyhideawayranch.com

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Lake County Wine Tours, *Countywide*

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

A Taste of Lake County Wine Tour, *Countywide*

By Reservation

Enjoy picturesque views of Clear Lake during a private vineyard tour and tasting, sip wines straight from the barrel during a fun and informative winery tour, and stop for lunch at a local favorite. Private charter wine tours available, giving visitors a chance to explore hidden treasures. (707) 987-1920; (888) 987-AERO, www.aeroshuttleservice.com

Tulip Hill Winery Tours, *Nice*

Saturday afternoons

Guided tour of the winery's production of world-class wines offered every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Free. 4900 Bartlett Springs Road. (707) 274-9373, www.tuliphillwinery.com

Langtry Estate and Vineyard Tours, *Middletown*

Tuesday through Saturday

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. 21000 Butts Canyon Road. 48-hours advance reservations required. (707) 987-2385, www.langtryestate.com

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.