



COUNTY OF LAKE

MARKETING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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LAKE COUNTY WINE AUCTION TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 17

LAKEPORT, CA — The Lake County Wine Alliance will hold its 12th-annual Lake County Wine Auction, a gala benefit for the arts, health, and community of Lake County, on Saturday, September 17, 2011, at Ceago Vinegarden, 5115 East Highway 20, in Nice.

This annual gala is a must-attend event with live and silent auctions, wine and gourmet foods from local purveyors, and music. This year's event is chaired by Bill Brunetti, a prominent Lakeport businessman; the evening's auctioneers will be Shaun Hornby and Stephanie Green. The attire for the evening is Wine Country chic. Attendees must be 21 years and older. Music will be provided by Twice As Good. U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson will be an honored special guest.

Two ticket prices will be offered at this year's auction. The Grand Tasting ticket will include an afternoon of wine and food tasting in the Ceago gardens, a commemorative wineglass and tasting plate, and participation in the silent auction for \$75 per person. This portion of the event will begin at 3:00 p.m. and conclude at 6:00 p.m. The Grand Tasting and Auction Reserve ticket will include all of the items listed for the Grand Tasting ticket as well as a gift tote, reserved seating for the dinner, the live auction, and dancing for \$150 per person. This portion of the event will start at 3:00 p.m. and conclude at 9:00 p.m.

The Lake County Wine Alliance is a nonprofit organization of Lake County wineries, winegrape growers, and community supporters whose mission is to foster the arts, benefit health services, and support the community. The Lake County Wine Auction has contributed more than \$831,000 to local programs since the first event was held in 2000.

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Each year, artist John Clarke creates a watercolor-on-silk painting and donates it to the Wine Alliance both to be reproduced as a fine art poster and to be auctioned off as original artwork. This year's piece is titled, "Thankful in Lake County." Posters of Clarke's painting will be on sale at several local tasting rooms. Other auction items include weekend and extended vacation getaways, wine packages, wine tasting events, local arts, and a variety of goods and services, including fine dining opportunities.

Beneficiaries from this year's event includes: Fine Arts Programs at Lake County High Schools, Any Positive Change, Operation Tango Mike, Catholic Charities Rural Food Program, Lake County Council of Church Women United, Lake County Literacy Coalition, Lake County Military Funeral Honors Team, Northshore Fire Protection District, People Services Inc., and Meals on Wheels Programs at five Lake County Senior Centers.

For information and tickets to the Lake County Wine Auction contact (866) 279-WINE,
www.winealliance.org

Located in the mountains of the North Coast where the Mayacama and Vaca ranges come together, Lake County boasts the cleanest air in California and one of the oldest lakes on the continent. Lake County's winegrowing regions span vast, diverse terrain shaped by both volcanics and tectonics. Its high elevation, intense climate, and distinct soils combine to produce wines of high quality and character that have continued to gain impressive industry recognition. Visitors to the area experience these award-winning wines in casual tasting rooms that reflect the area's friendly, relaxed lifestyle. Lake County is part of the North Coast appellation along with neighboring regions of Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino, and within Lake County are five designated appellations: Benmore Valley, Clear Lake, Guenoc, High Valley, and Red Hills.

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, 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