



COUNTY OF LAKE

MARKETING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINE & CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 11, 2012

LAKEPORT, CA — The decadent and delicious annual Wine & Chocolate Festival will be held at Mt. Konocti Growers on Saturday, February 11, 2012 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

An extensive offering of ultra-premium Lake County wines – everything from pear champagne to award-winning Syrah and Port – will be masterfully paired with luscious chocolates and other tasty food bites by Sommelier Stephanie Green, owner of Focused on Wine in Kelseyville. Green will lead workshops on wine sensory and pairing food with wines and a variety of other classes and demonstrations will be held, such as olive oil sensory, chocolate demonstrations, and biodynamic vineyards.

This year's event also will feature a silent auction with wine, dining, travel, and art packages, as well as an array of olive oils and appetizers to stimulate the palate.

Event-goers will stroll through the venue tasting wines from more than 30 area wineries, nibble on delicious chocolates, and can purchase a "wine country" lunch. Wines from the event also will be available for sale. Auto enthusiasts and admirers will have an opportunity to see vintage cars and trucks up close throughout the event, weather permitting.

Proceeds from the Wine & Chocolate Festival benefit the programs and services of the Lake Family Resource Center.

Mt. Konocti Growers, 2550 Big Valley Road, Lakeport. Admission is \$35 per person in advance; \$40 at the door. Noon to 4:00 p.m. For information, call (707) 279-0563.

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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.

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.

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