



## **UPDATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual PASSPORT TO SONOMA VALLEY MAY 17 - 18**

Over 40 Sonoma Valley Wineries Set to Participate With Special Wine Offers and Internationally Themed Celebrations in Support of the SVVGA Scholarship Fund

*Plus*

Visa Signature and The Lodge at Carneros offer Exclusive Passport Weekend Package

**Sonoma, CA** (April 16, 2008) Executive Director Grant Raeside of the Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance (SVVGA) has confirmed the participation of over 40 wineries at this year's second annual **Passport to Sonoma Valley** taking place May 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am – 4:00pm at venues throughout historic Sonoma Valley. Visitors to the valley-wide open house will be issued a "passport", providing them unprecedented access to the wines and wineries of California's oldest wine region, including special pricing, exclusive wine offers and internationally themed celebrations.

As with last year, a portion of the Passport to Sonoma Valley proceeds will go to the SVVGA Scholarship Fund, which helps provide college tuition for senior level high school students who have good academic records and family in the wine industry.

Tickets to this year's Passport to Sonoma Valley are: \$50/weekend, \$45/day \$10/designated driver when purchased in advance or \$60/weekend and \$55/day when purchased at the event (subject to availability). On the day of the event, ticket holders, and those wishing to purchase tickets must check in at one of four designated locations – including Viansa Winery, Valley of the Moon Winery, The Lodge at Sonoma and Saint Francis Winery - to receive their passport and complimentary wine glass. For more information on check-in locations and to **purchase tickets, visit [www.sonomavalleywine.com](http://www.sonomavalleywine.com) or call 707-935-0803.**

As co-sponsor of this year's event, Visa Signature is offering a \$5.00 discount on tickets purchased with their Visa Signature® card. Visa Signature and **The Lodge at Sonoma** will also present the **Passport to Sonoma Valley Visa Signature® Exclusive Weekend**, a package that includes a two night stay in a deluxe guest cottage, \$50 dinner credit at Carneros Bistro & Wine Bar (excludes tax, tip and alcohol) and two weekend passports. (Package must be purchased with Visa Signature® Card).

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## **Passport to Sonoma Valley Winery Highlights**

### **Audelssa Estate Winery**

Winemaker Erich Bradley and the Schaefer family will be on hand to serve their limited production Rhones, 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon and barrel samples of their 2006 Bordeaux blend paired with Roasted Sirloin Rossini served on a crostini with a duck & truffle paté , Wild Mushroom Stew, and Country Focaccia drizzled with Audelssa's Estate Olive Oil & topped with shaved Abbaye De Bel'loc & blueberry cabernet compote prepared by Chef Rich Treglia of Garden Court Café . 13647 Arnold Drive, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, [audelssa.com](http://audelssa.com)

### **Blackstone Winery**

Presenting the Blackstone Crab Shack and Backyard Beach Hide-a-way! The winery will be serving up a big pot of Thai Pot Crab Stew paired with the new release of Blackstone Malvasia Bianca. Live surf music by the Aqua Velvets on Saturday and Hawaiian Slat key guitarist Victoria Holeman on Sunday. 8450 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, CA 95452 [blackstonewinery.com](http://blackstonewinery.com)

### **David Noyes Wines and Spann Vineyards**

For a rollicking good time visit Sonoma Valley's newest cooperative Tasting Room, featuring David Noyes Wines and Spann Vineyards. Dress casually—wear your cowboy hats, handkerchiefs and come prepared to enjoy great chuck wagon cuisine and excellent country music. New releases, many wines... 9380 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, CA 95452, [davidnoyeswines.com](http://davidnoyeswines.com) , [spannvineyards.com](http://spannvineyards.com)

### **Gloria Ferrer Caves & Vineyards**

Gloria Ferrer Caves & Vineyards—the first sparkling wine house in the Sonoma Carneros region—invites you to discover cool-climate wines served with warm Spanish hospitality. Enjoy new wines presented by wine educator Cindy Friedman, Spanish delicacies from La Espanola plus samples of newly released estate olive oil. 2355 Highway 121, Sonoma, CA 95476 [gloriaferrer.com](http://gloriaferrer.com)

### **Gundlach Bundschu**

Gundlach Bundschu celebrates their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a salute to their Bavarian roots. Enjoy their version of a Bavarian Wine Garden Oktoberfest featuring Gewurztraminer and other wines, Bavarian appetizers and live music by an authentic Lederhosen-clad accordion player. 2000 Denmark Street, Sonoma, CA 95476, [gunbun.com](http://gunbun.com)

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### **Landmark Vineyards**

Landmark transports you to the beautiful countryside of Provence, France. Relax in the view courtyard and indulge in local artisan cheeses and breads, decadent crepes by Chef Ryan, ... and perhaps a little Bocce Ball. Special discounts and door prizes/giveaways. 101 Adobe Canyon Road, Kenwood, CA 95452, [landmarkwine.com](http://landmarkwine.com)

### **Larson Family Winery**

Larson Family Winery celebrates their Swedish heritage with special wines and wonderful bites of sweet and savory smorgasbord. Barrel taste new releases, enjoy Swedish music and fun activities for the kids, and take advantage of special discounts on select wines...ya sure ya betcha! 23355 Millerick Road, Sonoma, CA 95476, [larsonfamilywinery.com](http://larsonfamilywinery.com)

### **Petroni Vineyards**

Is the euro exchange rate keeping you from traveling to Italy and Spain? Save the trip and join the crew from Petroni Vineyards at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art for a Mediterranean experience in the heart of Sonoma. Enjoy the Picasso exhibit; nibble on antipasti including their house-cured prosciutto and sip their award winning Brunello di Sonoma and other vineyard designate wines. Sonoma Valley Museum of Art Address: 551 Broadway, Sonoma, CA 95476, [petronivineyards.com](http://petronivineyards.com)

### **Ravenswood Winery**

Presenting Tales of the Arabian Nights. In the spirit of Sinbad, Aladdin, Scheherazade and Shahryar, Ravenswood offers up their famous “non-wimpy” zinfandels paired with exotic taste treats, belly dancers, bright silks and finery...enjoy the magic in the glass. 18701 Gehricke Road, Sonoma, CA 95476, [ravenswood-wine.com](http://ravenswood-wine.com)

### **St. Francis Winery**

The torch has left Mt. Olympus and is on its way to St. Francis Acropolis in Sonoma Valley. Follow the flame and feast like Dionysius on the nectar of their newest Sauvignon Blanc, decadent winery-only reds and mezedes, the traditional small bites that are delicious enough to become part o future mythology. Weather permitting the Titans on their staff will challenge you to the Spring Games on the winery lawn. Kalos Orisate! 500 Pythian Road, Santa Rosa, CA, 95409, [stfranciswinery.com](http://stfranciswinery.com)

(For a full list of participating wineries visit [www.sonomavalleywine.com](http://www.sonomavalleywine.com))

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**About the Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance (SVVGA)**

The Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance (SVVGA) is a non-profit trade organization serving over 500 vintners, growers and associates who share a mission to promote awareness of Sonoma Valley's grapes, wine, terroir and history as the birthplace of the California wine industry. The Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Foundation (SVVGF) is a non-profit organization that has raised over \$7,000,000 for local Sonoma Valley charities through the Sonoma Valley Harvest Wine Auction. For more information on the SVVGA and SVVGF, please call 707-935-0803 or visit [w.sonomavalleywine.com](http://w.sonomavalleywine.com).

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