

MEDIA ALERT



PASSPORT TO SONOMA VALLEY UPDATE!

Over 40 Sonoma Valley Wineries Announce Participation in First Ever Valley-Wide Passport Event Scheduled for May 19-20, 2007

Sonoma, CA (April 2, 2007) The inaugural celebration of **Passport to Sonoma Valley** will take place Saturday and Sunday May 19th and 20th at wineries throughout historic Sonoma Valley. To date, over 40 of the valley's wineries have announced their plans for participation in Passport to Sonoma Valley, providing visitors rare access to the many "hidden gems" and seasonal activities of California's oldest wine region. Passport holders will enjoy two days of world-class fun, food, music, wines and discounts not typically available to the public.

A portion of the event's proceeds will go to the **SVVGA Scholarship Fund**, which financially aids college-bound high school seniors whose parents are in the wine industry.

Check in required at one of four designated locations: Viansa Winery at the southern entrance to the valley, St. Francis Winery and Valley of the Moon Winery to the north or Sebastiani Vineyards & Winery in the town of Sonoma.

Fee: \$50/weekend passport, \$45/day passport in advance, \$60/weekend passport \$55/day passport at the event

Time: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Phone Number/Website: (707) 935.0803 www.sonomavalleywine.com

A Sampling of Participating Wineries:

Arrowood Vineyards and Winery Presents Tour de France. Address: 14347 Sonoma Highway, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, arrowoodvineyards.com

Audelssa Estate Winery: Enjoy our award winning wines with fabulous foods prepared by local chef Rich Teglia of Garden Court Cafe. Meet winemaker Erich Bradley and proprietor Dan Schaefer while enjoying live Brazilian Jazz by Isaac Canter. Address: 13647 Arnold Drive, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, audelssa.com

Basque in the Sun at Bartholomew Park Winery: Join winemaker Dave Marchesi for a barrel tasting of 2006 vintage wines from the certified organically farmed Bartholomew Park Estate Vineyard. Sample the savory Basque treats paired with current releases before stepping out in the sunshine to enjoy the 400 acres of picnic grounds and hiking trails. Address: 1000 Vineyard Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, bartpark.com

Benziger Family Winery Presents A Journey to the Swiss Alps: The Benziger Family draws their heritage from Switzerland which may be one reason Sonoma Mountain feels like home. Join us on our version of the Alps and taste what makes our mountain wine special. This passport weekend guests have a special opportunity to meet one of our winemakers, taste from the barrel and get a glimpse into the winemaking process. Address: 1883 London Ranch Road, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, benziger.com

Blackstone Winery Welcomes You to Wine Country Safari! Join Blackstone Winery as we take your taste buds on a wine tasting safari of rare and unusual grape varietals: Malvasia Bianca (white) Malbec, Tannat and Teroldego(Red). All sold exclusively at the winery! For the avid hunters (tasters) who want to bag a few bottles for trophies, we are offering a special discount to passport holders. Exotic food pairing and a few other surprises await the passport holders. Address: 8450 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, CA 95452, blackstonewinery.com

B.R. Cohn Winery Presents Dog Day's in May: Come say hello to Moose our Winery Representative & Mascot! Moose will be available to sign the new edition of Winery Dogs of Sonoma. A book showcasing the dogs that live at 71 wineries in Sonoma County. Guests will be treated to our wines paired with Moose's favorite people treats. Guess the number of dog bones in a jar and win a gift basket! Address: 15000 Sonoma Highway, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, brcohn.com

Buena Vista Carneros and Haywood Estate Wines Present French Bistro: Founded in 1857, Buena Vista is California's first premium winery and its history is as colorful as it is proud. Address: 18000 Old Winery Road, Sonoma, CA 95476, buonavistacarneros.com

Castle Vineyards & Winery ~ Experience a Taste of the Rhone Valley: Join us at our downtown tasting room and take a virtual trip to the Rhone Valley with us. Yucatan Sunset Catering will pair tasty treats with our lush Viognier, sexy Syrah and rich Grenache on our garden patio. Address: 122 W Spain Street, Sonoma, CA 95476, castlevineyards.com

Charles Creek Vineyard Presents Old Sonoma: Passport holders will be offered an expanded choice of wines for tasting at no additional charge paired with light bites and artisan chocolate. Reserve quality wines will be offered at 15% off retail. Sonoma County appellation wines will be offered to Passport holders at a special case discount of 25% off retail - mixed cases are encouraged. Visit a taste of Old Sonoma on the historic Plaza. Address: 483 1st Street W, Sonoma, CA 95476, charlescreek.com

Chateau St. Jean: Passport guests will receive complimentary tasting in our visitor center and a 15% discount off wine purchases. Address: 8555 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, CA 95452, chateautstjean.com

GlenLyon Vineyards & Winery Presents A Bit of Scotland: The kilted Winemakers will be pouring at the Glen Ellen Inn. Enjoy delicious wines from GlenLyon Vineyards & Winery and foods from the Glen Ellen Inn to bagpipe music! Glen Ellen Inn Address: 13670 Arnold Drive, Glen Ellen, CA 95442 glenlyonwinery.com

Gundlach Bundschu Presents a Taste of Thailand: Our much-awaited release of 2006 Rhinefarm Vineyard Gewurztraminer may be the perfect complement to Thai fare, but you'll also learn how to pair red wines with one of the world's finest cuisines while celebrating the arts and traditions of a most graceful culture. Address: 2000 Denmark Street, Sonoma, CA 95476, gunbun.com

Imagery Estate Winery Presents Taste of Italy: Imagery will spotlight their 2004 Lagrein, a little known Italian varietal native to the Trentino region. Lagrein is an inky full bodied wine. Label Artist Filomena Coppola is flying in from Australia to sign bottles of this delicious wine. Guests are invited to enjoy Imagery's Bocce ball court or play horse shoes on the lawn. The winery will also pour a few limited-edition library wines. Address: 14335 Highway 12, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, imagerywinery.com

Landmark Vineyards Presents a French Bistro: From Paris to Provence, bistros are the heart and soul of the French lifestyle. Live French music, quaint cafe tables, and Landmark's luscious Burgundian and Rhone style wines add to the ambiance at Landmark's French Bistro. On Saturday, Colette Hatch, Madame de Fromage, will be presenting wonderful French cheese paired with Landmark's wine. On Sunday, Landmark will have savory crepes paired with their wines. Hop aboard our Vineyard Wagon Tour with third generation Sonoma County farmer, Pat Prather, and his two Belgian horses between 12:00 - 3:00 pm on Saturday. Landmark's door prize, a one night stay at the estate suite or cottage, will go to one lucky Sonoma Valley Passport Visitor! A special discount will be

available in the tasting room all weekend. Address: 101 Adobe Canyon Road, Kenwood, CA 95452, landmarkwine.com

Larson Family Winery Presents a Real Country Wine Experience: From cowboys and rodeos to vineyards and wine, and for this special Passport Weekend - all combined! Come on down as our family history comes alive with our own rendition of America's Wild Wild West! Meet our Winemaker, Carolyn Craig, as she offers a barrel sampling of some of our finest estate wine. We will also offer up a complimentary flight of our Gold Medal winners, including our 2003 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (that won the esteemed title of "Best Cabernet in California" at the 2006 California State Fair), paired with a dark chocolate made by local chocolatier Peter Rabbit. We will also have Covered Wagon Tours through the vineyards by Wine Country Trail Rides. There will also be barrel lassoing and a lucky horseshoe toss to test you skill. So be sure to get to us early, because "We drink what we can, and sell the rest!" Address: 23355 Millerick Road, Sonoma, CA 95476, larsonfamilywinery.com

Ledson Winery & Vineyards Presents Welcome to Zinoma! Our guests will be welcomed to "Zinoma" where they will receive an overview of the history of Zinfandel followed by a horizontal tasting of 2004 Zinfandels paired up with local Sonoma cuisine prepared by our winery chef. Address: 7335 N Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, CA 95452, ledson.com

Little Vineyards Family Winery: Blend a LITTLE passion for wine and a LITTLE passion for music...in our intimate country setting. Come by our tasting room and experience our rev'd up newly released 2004 vintages paired with live acoustic "stick" music by Rich Little. This will be a rare opportunity to meet our wine maker, Ted Coleman who will be offering barrel tastings. Address: 15188 Sonoma Highway, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, littlevineyards.com

Loxton Cellars Presents Australia in Sonoma Valley: Welcome to Australia. Aussie winemaker, Chris Loxton, welcomes guests to this little piece of Australia in Sonoma Valley. Barrel taste the new Shiraz and other selected wines, sample food pairings and take advantage of special discounts only for Passport guests! Address: 1146 Dunbar Road, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, loxtonwines.com

Matanzas Creek Winery: Built in the late 70's on the site of an old Dairy Barn, Matanzas Creek Winery will be harking back to this heritage with some wonderful Sonoma County cheeses paired with our fabulous wines. Got Wine? We do. Please join us for some special library and current vintage wine tastings in a beautiful setting. Address: 6097 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, matanzascreek.com

Madrone Ridge at Sonoma Enoteca: Experience Italian hospitality with Madrone Ridge at Sonoma Enoteca. Pair Madrone Ridge Wines with hors d'oeuvres, meet the winemaker and enjoy a 30% discount on wines. Address: 35 E Napa Street, Sonoma, CA 95476

Mayo Family Winery Presents their Education Series: Join Mayo Family Winery as they do a side by side tasting of 10 single vineyard wines. Taste Chardonnay as well as Cabernet. Taste the oak influence in Chardonnay while you compare and contrast an un-wooded chardonnay versus a barrel fermented Chardonnay. Taste the elevation influence in Cabernet while you compare and contrast a Valley floor Cabernet Sauvignon versus a hillside Cabernet Sauvignon. Also enjoy special discounts on wine purchases! Address: 13101 Arnold Drive, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, mayofamilywinery.com

Muscardini Cellars Presents and Italian Affair: Meet the winemaker, Michael Muscardini, as you taste his boutique wines and delectable Italian fare at Carneros Bistro and Wine Bar. This is your chance to taste wines straight from the barrel and be rewarded with a 15% discount! Carneros Bistro and Wine Bar Address: 1325 Broadway, Sonoma, CA 95476, muscardinicellars.com

Nicholson Ranch Presents a Trip to Ancient Greece: Come drink in the classic sites of Greece while enjoying the best of Sonoma Valley wines at Nicholson Ranch! Purchased in 1962 by Socrates Nicholson (originally Nicolacopoulos), the Ranch has a Greek amphitheater, a columned dock on the lake and a classic Greek chapel. Enjoy a taste of our Estate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir while you tour

our five-level gravity flow winemaking facility. A little bite of Baklava will send you happily on your way to your next port of call! Address: 4200 Napa Road, Sonoma, CA 95476, nicholsonranch.com

Ravenswood Winery Presents Tennessee Barbeque and Zinfandel: What better way to kick-off barbeque season than coming to Ravenswood Winery to celebrate the marriage of two great gastronomic cult followings, "California Zinfandel and Tennessee Barbecue." Ravenswood Chef will prepare authentic barbeque with a zinfandel twist to satisfy and inspire the backyard cook in your household. Live music and great summer wine deals. Join us! Address: 18701 Gehricke Road, Sonoma, CA 95476, ravenswood-wine.com

Robledo Family Winery Presents Passport to Mexico:

Come enjoy Mexican hospitality along with some traditional Mexican dishes prepared by chef Maria Robledo paired with Robledo wines! Cheers! robledofamilywinery.com

Schug Carneros Estate Winery Presents Passport to Pinot: An exploration of Schug Pinots past, present and future, featuring wines from our extensive library as well as current vintages and barrel tasting of upcoming releases. Address: 602 Bonneau Road, Sonoma, CA 95476, schugwinery.com

Sebastiani Vineyards & Winery: As a way to start your Passport Experience, Passport holders will receive a wine aroma wheel. This is a great tool to learn about wines and enhance one's ability to describe the complexity of wine flavor. Take it as you taste through Sonoma Valley. A barrel tasting will also be offered of our 2005 Sonoma County Merlot. Address: 389 Fourth Street E, Sonoma, CA 95476, sebastiani.com

Sharp Cellars: Experience a culinary journey around the world with Sonoma sausages paired with Sharp Cellars wine. From the spicy Cajun Andouille to the classic German Bratwurst to the exotic Hawaiian Portuguese; your taste buds will be tantalized. Enjoy down home hospitality with proprietors, Vance and Monika Sharp! **No Buses or Limos. Parking is limited.** Address: 17560 Norrbom Road, Sonoma, CA 95476, sharpcellars.com

S.L. Cellars: Come taste our library wines that will be paired with cigars and our sparkling wines that will be paired with tasty chocolates. We will also be offering special discounts off wine purchases. Address: 9380 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, CA 95452, slcellars.com

Spann Vineyards Presents Mediterranean Style Wine & Food Tasting: We will be tasting our Mediterranean inspired wines with Southern French and Spanish inspired food at Saffron Restaurant in Glen Ellen. This will include our current vintages plus the first public tasting of a few of our new vintage releases. We will offer a special 2 day only 10% discount on all bottle purchases and 20% discount off mixed case purchases. Saffron Restaurant Address: 13648 Arnold Drive, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, spannvineyards.com

St. Francis Winery Presents Mission Mercado: Join us in celebrating the best of South of the Border cuisine paired with St. Francis full bodied wines. Saturday's guests will be entertained by lively Mariachi music and guests on both days will taste barrel samples alongside current vintages to experience the evolution of a wines progress. Special wine pricing will be offered to Passport attendees. Address: 500 Pythian Road, Santa Rosa, CA, 95409, stfranciswinery.com

Tantalus Winery Presents Mardi Gras in Sonoma: Drawing on their Louisiana roots, Tantalus Winery will delight with their luscious wines in a carnival atmosphere. Address: 19320 Orange Avenue, Sonoma, CA 95476, tantaluswinery.com

Tin Barn Vineyards: Join Tin Barn Vineyards winemaker & partner Michael Lancaster as we take you through a small, hands-on Sonoma Valley winemaking experience. We welcome you into our state of the art winery where you can see it all under one roof: winemaking, barrel storage and the wonderful finished product in bottle. Sample our acclaimed single-vineyard, small-lot wines and taste cheeses from the local cheese purveyor in Sonoma. Special 15% discount for Passport holders only. Large groups please call ahead. Address: 21692 Eighth St East #340, Sonoma, CA 95476, tinbarnvineyards.com

Ty Caton Vineyards with a European Flair! Visit Winemaker Ty Caton and join us for a unique tasting experience, blending wine, food and music. We will be pouring our award-winning wines paired with enticing European cuisine. Enjoy a sense of Europe in Sonoma! Receive a 10% discount on all purchases or a 20% discount on a case or more (mix/match). Address: to be advised, tycaton.com

Viansa Winery Presents A Taste of Tuscany! Taste barrel samples and reserve tastings of our unique, award-winning, California Italian varietal wines and sample gourmet Tuscan-style appetizers overlooking our 90 acre wetland preserve. Also, enjoy special tours with the winemaker and enter into win a special Tuscan gift basket! Address: 25200 Arnold Drive, Sonoma, CA 95476, viansa.com

Valley of the Moon Winery Presents Morocco: Come savor the flavors and romance of Marrakech. Executive chef, Robin Lehnhoff, will work her magic pairing the tantalizing spices and flavors of Moroccan cuisine with Valley of the Moon wines. Visitors will be welcomed inside the tent where they may glimpse a belly dancer charming the crowd. Excellent discounts on wine all weekend. Address: 777 Madrone Road, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, valleyofthemoonwinery.com

VJB Vineyards & Cellars Presents Festa Italiana! Join us in celebration of our heritage and the release of 3 limited production Italian varietals at Festa Italiana May 19th & 20th. We produce just 4,000 cases annually which are sold exclusively from our Tasting Room in Kenwood. Owner / chef Maria Belmonte will also be serving up Italian delicacies to go with the Tocai Friulano, Sangiovese, and Barbera. Address: 90787 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood, CA 95452, vjbcellars.com

Wellington Vineyards: Wellington Vineyards will be offering discounts on wine purchases, special vineyard tours with winemaker, Peter Wellington, port tasting with Wine Country Chocolates and reserve wine tastings! Address: 11600 Dunbar Road, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, wellingtonvineyards.com

About the Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance (SVVGA)

The Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance (SVVGA) is a unique non-profit organization, comprised of hundreds of vintners and growers who share a mission to promote Sonoma Valley wines and grapes, support cooperation and collaboration among vintners and growers, and develop community awareness of the industry. For more information on the SVVGA, please call 707-935-0803 or visit www.sonomavalleywine.com.

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