

Be responsible: Are you safe to drive?

The Colorado Mountain Winefest, scheduled this year for Saturday September 15th, is just around the corner. This premier event, organized by the Rocky Mountain Association of Vintners and Viticulturists (RMAVV), has become increasingly popular and is attended by thousands of visitors to the Grand Valley each September. The Town of Palisade is the wine capital of the state and is looking forward to hosting the event again this year. The many events of this festival begin on Thursday, Sept. 13 with golf and wine, continue on Sept. 14 with seminars and the famous Enstrom's Chocolates and Wine Tasting, and conclude on Saturday in Palisade's Riverbend Park with 43 wineries, dueling chefs, delicious food, and live music by EOHIPPUS.

RMAVV, a non-profit corporation, is dedicated to education of winemakers, grape growers, and introducing Colorado wines to the world. As Colorado wines gain recognition, they play an increasingly important role in the economies of both the Grand Valley and the State. The enjoyment of high quality wines is one of life's great pleasures. The Town of Palisade and RMAVV invite you to experience this remarkable event in beautiful Riverbend Park, but we ask that you participate responsibly.

The popularity of the event, while bringing enjoyment to more people every year, has also aggravated a problem that needs to be addressed. Driving a motor vehicle while impaired is not acceptable, and will not be overlooked by the Palisade Police Department, the RMAVV, and law enforcement agencies in the valley.

In the interests of ensuring a safe and enjoyable event for all, the following actions will be taken during the festival this year:

- The RMAVV will provide test kits for those who voluntarily wish to monitor blood alcohol content and are responsible enough to police themselves.
- Palisade Law enforcement officers will be in the park and patrolling the streets to monitor behavior, conduct investigatory stops, and assist with locating alternate transportation if necessary.
- The Mesa County Sheriff's Department, in partnership with the Colorado State Patrol will set up check points on roads and highways outside the limits of the Town of Palisade to conduct sobriety investigations.

It only takes one intoxicated driver to take or ruin a life and mar this celebration of wine. With that in mind, we ask visitors to drink responsibly and make arrangements for a designated driver. Come to Palisade to enjoy our fruit, our wine, the beauty of our surroundings, and the hospitality of our residents and businesses. We look forward to seeing you at Winefest.

Marilyn Jensen

Director

Colorado Mountain Winefest