

'Kick Up Your Heels' with the finest wines!

Colorado Mountain Winefest
September 13-16, 2007
Palisade, Colorado

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

Purchase Saturday Fest tickets in advance, save \$5.

Winefest's Festival in the Park is held at Riverbend Park in Palisade, Saturday, Sept. 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Adult tickets are \$35 in advance; \$40 at the gate. Advance ticket sales end Friday, Sept. 14.

Non-drinker/designated driver tickets are \$20.

See a list of Western Slope ticket outlets on page 9.

Come celebrate the **16th Annual Colorado Mountain Winefest**, presented by First National Bank of the Rockies, September 13-16. Toast the grape harvest and raise your glass to Colorado's finest vintages at the state's oldest, largest and best wine festival, and the only festival held in the heart of Colorado's wine country.

This year's festival is especially noteworthy. It marks the 16th annual festival that began in 1992 as a small gathering of six wineries handing out samples of merlots and chardonnays in a town park. Now, this four-day festival, featuring the wines of 43 Colorado wineries, has earned recognition as "Colorado's Best Wine Festival."

Thousands of wine lovers make the annual pilgrimage to Palisade not only to sample a growing array of wine varieties, but also to take part in hands-on workshops, wine and food pairing events, dueling chefs (new this year will be representatives from Viking Range that will be acting as emcees), a grape stomp, golfing, a bicycle tour of the vineyards, shopping at artisan booths, listening to jazz, winery tours, winemaker competitions, chocolate tasting, partaking of winemaker dinners, and the exclusive VIP 1st Class Pass experience.

Festival goers still visit with the winemakers as they sample wines in the relaxing ambience of Palisade's beautiful Riverbend Park along the Colorado River, framed by a backdrop of mesas and cliffs. They can still learn from the source about the grape-to-bottle story of their favorite wines. If you want to meet winemakers, cheese makers, peach growers, painters, chefs, or Bacchus; or want to feel what it's like to stomp grapes, or see how wine is made during "Crush," then you need to come to Winefest.

Check out the RMAVV (Rocky Mountain Association of Vintners and Viticulturists) booth



FRUIT FALL FEST • The Daily Sentinel

for collectibles such as T-shirts and posters and where they will have book signings by authors Gene Spaziani and Christine Feller.

Complete information and tickets for all events are available at the 16th Annual Winefest website. Click on www.coloradowinefest.com or call 800-704-3667 for a Winefest brochure, tickets, or collectible 16th Annual Commemorative Posters and T-shirts.

See **SCHEDULE** on page 8

Who should go? Anyone who enjoys learning

Saturday's Festival in the Park is for anyone who appreciates the beauty and bounty of the harvest.

By PENNY STINE
Sentinel Special Sections

Although Winefest organizers would like to invite everyone to come to Saturday's Festival in the Park during Winefest, the invitation comes with a slight warning. Those who come to the festival should anticipate enjoying the wine, the sunshine, the music, the crowd and the opportunity to learn. Those who anticipate a frat party atmosphere, with all the wine you can drink, wet t-shirts and screaming guitars may want to have your own party.

The wine, of course, is brought to you by 43 Colorado wineries, which are sacrificing a day to be at the festival during the harvest and the crush, which is their busiest time of the year. The sunshine comes courtesy of the creator of Colorado's climate, and the music will be live

and happening all day on the main stage. As for the crowd, last year's festival drew close to 6,000 participants and organizers are expecting similar numbers this year, so don't expect solitude and serenity.

Opportunities to learn are everywhere at the park. With 43 wineries pouring reds, whites and even a few that may be somewhere in between, chances are good that you'll discover a new favorite in a variety that you'd otherwise never have gotten a chance to try. With wineries from both sides of the state participating, Winefest also offers a unique opportunity sample wines from faraway vineyards without driving for hours.

The dueling chefs and chef demonstrations are not only entertaining, but a great opportunity to pick up a few tips for cooking with wine or recipes featuring Colorado's wide range of agricultural products. The vendor booths also offer an opportunity to learn, giving attendees an opportunity to sample goat cheese, exotic mustard or fruit-flavored salsas.

Opportunities for fun are everywhere, as well. Roll up your pant leg and join in the grape

stomp. Try not to get discouraged if no one actually uses the juice your tootsies manage to squeeze. Wander over to the main stage, where you can sit sedately in your lawn chair and listen to the music or you can get up, shake your groove thing and truly experience the music. Bring friends and have a picnic in the grass with a newly discovered bottle of wine.

Children are welcome at Winefest, but those who wish to sample wine must be 21. There are no planned activities for kids, however, so they may prefer an atmosphere with more fast food and playground equipment.

Shuttle service from both Horizon Drive and downtown Grand Junction will be running all day, providing a safe and worry-free ride to and from the park on Saturday.

Who should go to Winefest? Everyone who wants to support Colorado's growing wine industry, those who enjoy live music, those who enjoy a nice glass of wine and even those who think wine comes in a gallon refrigerated box; Winefest is for anyone who wants to appreciate the beauty and bounty of the harvest on the Western Slope.

Raise up a glass and toast fundraising

By PENNY STINE
Sentinel Special Sections

If the term “fundraiser” sends you screaming with visions of children selling giftwrap, don’t run away too quickly. The Colorado Mountain Winefest, is after all, a fundraiser for the Rocky Mountain Association of Vintners and Viticulturists, a trade organization that supports the young winemaking industry in Colorado.

The main focus of the organization is education for its members, providing seminars and support for the growers as well as the winemakers. RMAVV also contributes to the salary of the viticulturist at the Colorado State University Orchard Mesa Research Station, and hopes to help contribute to the salary of a full-time oenologist at CSU in Fort Collins.

For those whose wine vocabulary doesn’t extend further than red and white, the viticulturist is the expert



ADMISSION TO WINEFEST events raises money for the RMAVV, which supports Colorado’s wine industry. Winefest also helps Western Colorado Community College’s culinary arts program raise money to fund its culinary club.

on growing the grapes, while the oenologist is the expert on winemaking. Attempts to pronounce either occupation should not be undertaken after consuming more than one glass of wine.

Winefest provides another fundraising opportunity to Western Colorado Community College, another educational institution

that’s been vital to the growth of the wine industry in Western Colorado. The VIP Pass, which is already sold out for 2007, not only gives participants entrance to the festival, nearby parking, special seating near the main stage and protected wine storage, it also gives them entrance to the VIP tent, where there is a full kitchen staffed by WCCC culinary students

who are eager to show off their skills. Food and wine are paired and available in the tent all day for VIP Pass holders, with various stations offering pasta, salads, stir-fry, desserts, cheeses and nuts. The owner of Decadence Cheesecake, who is a proud graduate of the culinary program at WCCC, has created several cheesecakes to go with wine and will be offering them in the VIP tent.

Money raised by WCCC during Winefest helps fund the activities of the culinary club, which competes against other Colorado and regional cooking schools in Iron Chef style competitions. Competing gets quite expensive, as contestants prepare gourmet food, using expensive ingredients and practicing until perfect. This year, WCCC is proud to be hosting a statewide competition in October.

Unfortunately, the VIP Pass sells out every year, so if special treatment appeals to you, remember to call early in 2008 to reserve your VIP Pass.

Winefest is here to put the fun back in fundraising, so join the hundreds in the park on Saturday and be confident that no young child will be there offering giftwrap for sale.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 14

Golf Event 1:00 p.m. Tee-off

Redlands Mesa Golf Course, Grand Junction

Golf at the spectacular Redlands Mesa course, voted Best Golf Course in Colorado by Golf Week magazine; designed by legendary golf course architect, Jim Engh.

Colorado Wine & Cheese Reception 6:00 p.m.

Redlands Mesa Red Canyon Grille, Grand Junction

Savor wine, cheese, and amazing western Colorado scenery from the perfect vantage point high atop Redlands Mesa.

Tickets: Golf event and Wine & Cheese Reception: \$120; Wine & Cheese Reception only: \$40. Available at www.coloradowinefest.com or call 800-704-3667. Tickets are limited.

Winemakers Dinners and Brunches

Reservations are essential. Times, locations, and costs vary. Tickets available directly from host restaurants. See www.coloradowinefest.com for venues and phone numbers.

Friday, September 14

Winemaking Workshop 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Palisade Community Center, Hwy 6, Palisade

For the novice and initiated, Gene Spaziani, wine judge, educator, and author of “The Home Winemaker’s Companion,” shares a wealth of information on winemaking. A wine tasting will illustrate wine styles and blending techniques.

Tickets: \$45, available online at www.coloradowinefest.com. Tickets are limited.

Cheese “Meats” Wine 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

DoubleTree Hotel, 743 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction

Tour the world through the culinary traditions of cheeses and meats. Explore the factors and customs that made these foods legendary. igourmet.com will share noted European cheeses and meats to taste, and their nouvelle U.S. counterparts, with a wine pairing. Presented by Max Ariza, Sommelier, Instructor, Johnson and Wales University and featuring igourmet.com.

Tickets: \$45, available online at www.coloradowinefest.com. Tickets are limited.

Enstrom Chocolates & Wine Tasting 7:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Courtyard Marriott, 767 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction

Colorado wines and ports paired with world-famous premium chocolates, coffee, dessert and savories. With Viking Range to serve up mouth-watering, high-end grilled appetizers, your palate is sure to have a first class experience!

Tickets: \$50, available online at www.coloradowinefest.com. Tickets are limited.

Saturday, September 15

14th Annual US BANK Tour of the Vineyards 8:00 a.m.

Presented by Enstrom Candies – Hosted by the Town of Palisade

Celebrate Colorado’s wine country with a 25-mile bicycle tour through scenic Colorado wine country.

Reservations: \$35. For additional information, to register, and to purchase tickets contact Event Marketing Group, visit www.emgcolorado.com, e-mail emgmh@emgcolorado.com or call 303-635-2815.

Riedel Wine Glass Tasting 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Riverbend Park, Palisade

Riedel brings 250 years of glassmaking skill to the finest wineglasses in the world. During this guided journey, taste how the flavors and aromas of wines are enhanced when a glass shape is designed according to the character of the wine. Featured winemakers will share stories about their wines. The set of four glasses is yours to keep in a

Continued on next page

Western Slope Ticket Outlets

Advance ticket sales at these locations are for the “Festival in the Park” ONLY. Tickets are non-refundable. Available at the following locations through Sept. 11. Or order tickets online at www.coloradowinefest.com.

Special event tickets are very limited. Reserve early.

Avoid disappointment by purchasing your tickets soon for seminars, tasting events, VIP 1st Class Pass, Golf Event, and shuttle service. Visit the Web site or call 800-704-3667.

Glenwood Springs

Roaring Fork Liquors ▪ 3120-D Blake Ave.

Grand Junction

Cottonwood Liquors ▪ 2513 US Hwy 6 & 50
Crossroads Wine & Spirits ▪ 2546 Rimrock Ave.
Fisher's Liquor Barn ▪ 2438 F Rd.
Redlands Liquors ▪ 2500 A Broadway
Two Rivers Winery ▪ 2087 Broadway

Palisade

Canyon Wind Cellars ▪ 3907 North River Rd.
Grande River Vineyards ▪ 787 Elberta Ave.
Plum Creek Cellars ▪ 3708 G Road

protective carrier.

We are proud to present Tommy Leman of Riedel Crystal of America who will conduct this enlightening, informative and fun-filled Riedel Glass Seminar answering the question: “Do Riedel Glasses Make a Difference in the Taste of the Wine?”

Tickets: \$90, available online at www.coloradowinefest.com. Tickets are very limited.

Location: Chef Tent at Riverbend Park.

Note: Separate ticket to Festival in the Park required.

Colorado Mountain Winefest

- Festival in the Park 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Riverbend Park, Palisade

With 43 wineries and their winemakers participating, this festival features the best venue to learn about and taste how Colorado's wine scene has matured over the past 16 years. Meet winemakers, cheese makers, peach growers, painters, ice carvers, chefs, and Baccus; feel what it's like to stomp grapes; see what happens during “crush” and how wine is made. A specially designated tent to store your wine purchases will be available.

Tickets: Adult \$40 at gate/\$35 in advance. Winefest admission includes open wine tasting, entertainment, complimentary wine glass, and sturdy 6-bottle wine tote.

Nondrinker/Designated Driver: \$20 advance/gate. One complimentary bottled water from Culligan Water. Children 5 and under are admitted free of charge.

VIP 1st Class Pass: \$160 at gate/\$140 in advance. A limited number of these VIP tickets are available. Includes entry to the park, close-in VIP parking, sumptuous ever-changing buffet, admission to comfortable tented area with plenty of seating, reserved cabaret-style seating near Main Stage, beverages and wine tasting, crystal wine glass to keep, protected wine storage, concierge service and a variety of other first class amenities.

Shuttle service! Enjoy Winefest's Festival in the Park and leave the driving to us. Shuttle service runs from Grand Junction's Horizon Drive and downtown hotels to Riverbend Park every 15 minutes 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., every 30 minutes 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Round trip shuttle pass is \$7 and can be purchased in advance through the Winefest website. Shuttle schedule is available online at www.coloradowinefest.com.

Sunday, September 16

Self-guided winery tours featuring special events, tastings, tours, and sales. See the map on page 10 and a roundup of special events on page 18.