LIVERMORE VALLEY

Wine Country

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HARVEST WINE CELEBRATION FUN POURED INTO ONE DAY FOR 2014

Livermore Valley, Calif. (July 31, 2014) — For more than 30 years, people have gathered in historic <u>Livermore Valley</u> wine country over Labor Day Weekend to enjoy the fruit of the vines. Like a fine wine, the <u>Harvest Wine Celebration</u> has evolved over time and there are more changes planned for the 2014 vintage.

Surveys and analysis of previous celebrations show that the majority of guests enjoy the Sunday festivities the most, so the festival will now be held on a single day. On Sunday, August 31, between noon and 5 p.m., local wineries will offer Livermore Valley's best wine, food, art and music to ticket holders. And, there will be no buses—shuttle bus service between wineries was a signature part of the event in the past, but it also was the source of many frustrations.

"Everyone's favorite parts of the Harvest Wine Celebration – music, arts and craft vendors, local foods, and festivities at all the wineries – will continue. We eliminated the buses because the transportation experience did not consistently meet the expectations we strive to achieve for our guests," said Chris Chandler, executive director of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association. "We are combining efforts to serve the best wine for attendees and also have added reserve tasting experiences at each winery for a nominal additional fee."

For the 2014 festival, 37 wineries will host festivities at their tasting rooms across Livermore Valley, and seven more wineries will be pouring at either <u>Concannon Vineyard</u> or <u>Wente Vineyards</u> on Tesla Road. All locations will offer wine tasting, fresh food vendors, local artisans and festive music. Wineries are open only to ticket holders with event wristbands.

Monday is no longer an official part of the Harvest Wine Celebration, but many wineries have opted to waive tasting fees for those with a wristband on Monday, September 1. Guests should check *The Independent* event program to see which wineries will honor wristbands on Monday.

The 2014 admission price of \$45 includes commemorative Livermore Valley wine glass, admission and tastings of at least two wine varietals at each of more than 40 participating wineries, parking and official event program. Attendees can save 10% when buying 10 or more tickets together. Designated driver tickets for guests over age 15 are \$10 at the event only. Tickets are available at participating wineries, Bay Area Safeway stores, The Wine Steward in Pleasanton, First Street Wine Company in Livermore and online at www.LVwine.org.

"Harvest Time," the painting of a harvester carrying a basket of freshly picked grapes that graces 2014 Harvest Wine Celebration posters and program, was created by local artist Scott Cleek.

Wineries hosting Harvest Wine Celebration festivities at their tasting room locations:

3 Steves Winery, AuburnJames, Bent Creek Winery, Big White House Winery, Boa Ventura de Caires Winery, Caddis Winery, Charles R Vineyards, Concannon Vineyard, Crooked Vine Winery, Cuda Ridge Wines, Dante Robere Vineyards, Darcie Kent Vineyards, Eagle Ridge Vineyard, Eckert Estate Winery & Artisan Spirits, Ehrenberg Cellars, el Sol Winery, Fenestra Winery, Garré Vineyard and Winery, John Evan Cellars, La Rochelle Winery, Las Positas Vineyards, Longevity Wines, Mitchell Katz Winery, Murrieta's Well, Nottingham Cellars, Occasio Winery, Page Mill Winery, Retzlaff Estate Winery, Rodrigue Molyneaux, The Singing Winemaker, The Steven Kent Winery, Stony Ridge Winery, Vasco Urbano Wine Company, Wente Vineyards, Westover Vineyards and Winery, White Crane Winery, Wood Family Vineyards

Wineries pouring at Concannon Vineyard:

Bodegas Aguirre, Concannon Vineyard, McGrail Vineyards and Winery, Nella Terra Cellars

Wineries pouring at Wente Vineyards on Tesla Road:

Elliston Vineyards, Les Chênes Estate Vineyards, Little Valley Winery, Wente Vineyards, The Winemakers Studio

The Harvest Wine Celebration is a fundraiser for the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association. For more information, please visit www.LVwine.org or call 925-447-WINE.

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