



News Release...

For more information, please contact:

Rich Collins or Dennis Ver Mulm
IowaWines.org
3821 71st St., Suite F
Urbandale, IA 50322
Phone: (515) 270-6299
Email: iowawines@fullspectrumcom.com

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For immediate release:

Heart of Iowa Wine Trail to Host Tropical Wine Festival

The Heart of Iowa Wine Trail announces an evening getaway for winter-weary wine lovers. The wine trail is hosting the 3rd Annual Tropical Wine Festival at the Des Moines Botanical Center at 909 Robert D. Ray Drive in Des Moines on Friday evening, February 4, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

“Last year’s event was an overwhelming success,” states Diane Larson, president of the Heart of Iowa Wine Trail. “Once again, the Tropical Wine Festival will offer our guests the opportunity to leave behind a cold Iowa winter and escape to the lush surroundings of the Botanical Center where they may sample some of the best Iowa-crafted wines from the central Iowa member wineries of the Heart of Iowa Wine Trail. And because it was so popular last year, we’ll once again have fun island-style music provided by Tropical Steel – courtesy of our sponsors Görtz Haus Gallery and Absolute Transportation” Along with the wine, hors d’oeuvres will be served. Prizes will be awarded for the best male tropical attire, best female tropical attire, and best original tropical outfit. Included in prizes are items such as \$50 gift certificates for Splash Seafood Grill, a night for two at the Renaissance Des Moines Savery



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Hotel - both courtesy of the respective businesses. The wine trail will also draw fifteen winners of Iowa Wine Companion wine-tourist packages valued at \$55. The Iowa Wine Companions are being sponsored courtesy of **studio fuzzishü**. Wines served at the event may be purchased on site from the wineries for take-home or for consumption on the premises.

New for the 2011 event is the participation of Chocolaterie Stam, which will have locally made chocolates and wine-flavored gelato available for sale and consumption in the dome. “We worked with Iowa’s wineries to provide wine-flavored gelato at the 2010 Iowa State Fair,” relates Ton Stam, Chocolaterie Stam’s owner. “It was very popular, so when we were invited to participate with the Heart of Iowa Wine Trail in this winter event, we accepted with great enthusiasm.”

For guests wishing to extend the activity into their own overnight getaway, the wine trail has named the Renaissance Des Moines Savery Hotel at 401 Locust Street in Des Moines, Iowa as the preferred partner hotel. The hotel is providing a discounted executive stay package that includes hotel accommodation, executive turndown service, and a complimentary box of chocolates from Chocolaterie Stam in Des Moines. Guests wishing to take advantage of this special hotel offer should call (800) 514-4706 for reservations. When making reservations, guests should request the Tropical Wine Festival room rate.

Roundtrip courtesy shuttle transportation is being provided by Bos Restaurant and Chocolaterie Stam and will run regularly for all guests between the Savery Hotel and the Botanical Center. This will allow guests to park inside the city ramp at 4th and Grand and avoid parking congestion at the event. Those seeking late night dining after the festival can make reservations at either Bos in the Renaissance Savery or Splash Seafood at 303 Locust St.. There will be no corkage fee at these restaurants for Iowa wines brought from the festival. Tickets for the event are \$30 in advance (\$35 at the door). Tickets are available at Chocolaterie Stam on Ingersoll Ave. in Des Moines, Heart of Iowa Marketplace in Valley Junction, Big Sky Bread in Urbandale, Görtz Haus Gallery in Grimes, any Heart of Iowa Wine Trail winery or on-line at the wine trail’s store at www.heartofiwawinetrail.com. Heart of Iowa



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Wine Trail Passport holders will receive a 10% discount off the ticket price when purchasing their tickets at a wine trail winery. Those who buy four tickets at a winery or in the on-line store will receive a complementary wine trail passport good for 12 months. Frequent updates on Tropical Wine Festival activities, promotions, ticket sales locations, and arrangements will be posted regularly to the wine trail website at www.heartofiwawinetrail.com.

About the Heart of Iowa Wine Trail

The Heart of Iowa Wine Trail is an organization made up of fourteen central Iowa wineries located within convenient driving distance of Des Moines. The wine trail's purpose is to promote the wine industry in central Iowa through events, marketing and promotions that build visibility for affiliated wineries and the quality wines they produce. The fourteen member wineries are:

Dale Valley Vineyard – Stuart, IA
Eagle City Winery – Iowa Falls, IA
Grape Escape Vineyard and Winery – Pleasantville, IA
Jasper Winery – Des Moines, IA
John Ernest Vineyard and Winery – Tama, IA
LaVida Loca Winery – Indianola, IA
Penoach Winery – Adel, IA
Prairie Moon Winery – Ames, IA
Rosey Acres Winery – Runnels, IA
Snus Hill Vineyard and Winery – Madrid, IA
Summerset Winery – Indianola, IA
Tassel Ridge Winery – Leighton, IA
Two Saints Winery – St. Charles, IA
White Oak Vineyards – Cambridge, IA

For more information, please visit <http://www.heartofiwawinetrail.com>