



Contact: Don Fritzen,
Founder, Executive Director
don@californiawinefestival.com
Direct: 805-637-4411

California Wine Festival adds Another Festival to their Calendar. Orange County @ Dana Point – April 22-24, 2010

Now in its 7th year, the California Wine Festival (CWF) has adding a three-day Festival in the coastal town of Dana Point in Orange County April 22 – 24. “We’re expecting a great Festival in Orange County this year,” Executive Director Don Fritzen said. “Orange County is ‘Wine Lover Country’ with a reputation for supporting wine events like no place else. We’re really excited about the new Festival and the high level of enthusiasm in Orange County!”

New VP of Festival Operations, Emily Kaufmann, is signing up a wide variety of wineries from every wine region in California to pour at the three events, plus regional microbreweries, some imported wines and even vodka and tequila exhibitors. She’s also enlisting dozens of the best local and regional restaurants and food purveyors from around the County to serve gourmet food samples. Of course, a variety of live musical entertainment has been lined up at all three events to provide an exciting sound track to this year’s extravaganza.

There will be two evening wine tasting events, Thursday and Friday, limited to 500 guests each. The festivities culminate at Doheny State Beach, when the big Beachside Wine Festival takes over this peaceful palm-lined park and over 2,000 wine-happy guests sip and savor nearly 300 wines and dozens of food samplings. Craft brews will also be available for tasting along with dozens of hot and cold gourmet appetizers, artisan cheeses, breads, fresh cut fruits, olive oils and much more. A live band will keep the place jumpin’ all afternoon.

Tickets are available now at reduced prices on the Festival website, www.californiawinefestival.com, and at local Orange County wine shops and gourmet food.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 22, 6:30-9 pm – “Taste the Future – 21st Century Classics” – Sustainable Seafood & Wine Tasting, Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel (Official Headquarters Hotel)

We are extremely please to have the elegant Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel as our Festival Headquarters Hotel and host of our kick-off event. The hotel overlooks the Pacific high on a bluff and is the epitome of California luxury and style. This casually elegant evening will presents classic food and wine choices with an earth-friendly attitude – delicious sustainable seafood delicacies paired with organic and biodynamically farmed wines. Guests will also enjoy a special vodka and oyster tasting and live jazz to complete the evening. Limited to 500.

Friday April 23, 6:30-9 pm – “Sunset Rare & Reserve” Wine Tasting, Dana Point Yacht Club This is the toughest ticket in town. California’s best winemakers dust off their rare and reserve level bottles in a wine lovers fantasy night of sipping the “GOOD STUFF”! Some wines being poured are *no longer in distribution*; some are *proprietor’s reserves* and *end-of-vintage* wines. A champagne reception greets guests who may be treated to Napa trophy cabs, rare bottles from Sonoma, Santa Cruz and Sierra Mtn. areas, the red-hot Central Coast, and Pinots from Santa Barbara County and more. Top regional chefs will serve hot and cold appetizers while live bluesy jazz keeps things super cool. The sleek yachts and understated luxury of Dana Point harbor’s Yacht Club provides just the right amount of romance for this night of fantastic wine and food under the stars.

Saturday, April 24, 11:30 am-4 pm. “Beachside Food & Wine Fest” Doheny State Beach, Orange County. This ever-popular event is a Spring time high point in Dana Point and gets under way at 11:30 am for VIP and Gold Pass holders – and 1:00pm for regular ticket holders. Thousands of wine lovers will hit the sun-splashed beachside location for a day of sun, wine, food and music. Literally hundreds of premium California wines are served up along with the best of the regional microbreweries, local top chefs and food purveyors and vendors of all things related to wine. Tickets are available starting at \$59 to \$210 on the Festival website (www.californiawinefestival.com), at local wine shops and gourmet food stores. For more information, contact Don Fritzen, 805-637-4411.

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