

Press Release

October 23, 2009

Marlborough Wine Industry Prepares For Gala Weekend

The marquees are booked, the glasses are sparkling, the bottles of wine are in storage and the Marlborough wine industry is set to showcase itself to hundreds of guests at the upcoming Marlborough Wine Weekend.

Tickets for the three day event sold out two months ago, proving that people all over the world are keen to learn more about Marlborough's renowned wines.

It is the second time the industry has held such an event, with this year's Wine Weekend attracting a large contingent of overseas visitors and media.

Forty-two wineries are taking part, with many of the weekend activities taking place in the picturesque grounds of historic Timara Lodge.

The Wine Weekend is the largest ever celebration of its kind, with guests getting the chance to taste a vast array of wines and styles, while mixing with the winemakers who have created them.

The weekend begins with a picnic lunch at Timara Lodge, followed by Grand Tastings featuring Marlborough wines and first-class international comparisons, hosted by a guest panel of wine experts at Marlborough winery Ara. A Twilight Garden party will round up the first day of the Wine Weekend with guests given the first chance to sample the new release 2009 Sauvignon Blanc as well as an enviable range of other local wines.

On day two, guests will have the chance to tour Marlborough and find out firsthand about the intricacies and differences of the three main sub regions. These have been defined as the Wairau Valley, Southern Valley's and Awatere Valley.

On Saturday night back at in the stunning grounds of Timara Lodge, award winning Wellington Chef, Al Brown will create and prepare a unique five course meal, accompanied by local wines. The weekend will finally wind down with a Sounds Sparkling Cruise on Sunday on the famed and beautiful Marlborough Sounds.

Already the Wine Weekend has been hailed in international magazines as a Gala Event, not to be missed. It will also coincide with Marlborough celebrating its 150th anniversary.

The Marlborough Wine Weekend is being held from October 30 through until Sunday November 1 and is scheduled to be repeated again in October 2011.

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