Cincinnati Wine Festival
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Montgomery Inn at the Boathouse
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Cincinnati Wine Festival

Report to the Community 2008

A Message to the Cincinnati Community

We are proud to have completed the 18th year of The Cincinnati International Wine Festival. This Midwestern regional event not only raises money for charity but also has a huge economic impact on our city, filling our hotels and restaurants with diverse food and wine enthusiasts.

I have always said, there is no Wine Festival without the wineries. I would personally like to thank all of them for their continued support over the years.

In this day and age, it is increasingly more difficult to raise money for worthy causes. By this time next year, I hope to announce that we will have given more than three million dollars to Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky charities. All the money raised stays in our community.

Please take a moment to read this report and recognize what a win-win this weekend long festival is for our city.

I would like to thank our energetic board of directors, fine staff, the hundreds of volunteers, our many generous sponsors, the wine distributors and attendees that make these events possible.

Now with all this in mind, don't miss the fun or the chance to get involved.

Come to the party!

Connie Wiles

Connie Wiles, President

Mission Statement:
The Cincinnati International Wine Festival is a 501c (3) charitable, non-profit organization established to raise funds and distribute grants in the Greater Cincinnati area for programs in the arts, education, and health and human services.

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Russ Wiles

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Bill Moll

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Development Director
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Winery Dinners

On Thursday night, the Wine Festival weekend kicks off with one of the most desirable events - the Winery Dinners. Ten of the finest restaurants in the greater Cincinnati area open their doors and team up with wineries to create an intimate culinary experience. During this remarkable evening, guests have the opportunity to interact with their hosts and enjoy the harmony of fine wine and masterful cuisine.

Stephanie Gallo, Grand Tastings' Honorary Chair

Grand Tastings

Stephanie Gallo, Marketing Director of E&J Gallo Winery, graciously served as the 2008 Honorary Chair. The two day event was held in the Grand Ballroom at the Duke Energy Center. An estimated 6,000 people attended and had the opportunity to sample wines poured from over 140 wineries around the globe. Attendees also experienced twenty food booths, a reserve tasting room, live music, bid on silent auction items and everyone got to take home a souvenir Reidel wine glass.

Charity Auction & Luncheon

The morning began as guests sipped champagne and mingled around the silent auction items. Moving into the regal Hall of Mirrors, in the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza hotel, the mood was festive and spirited as bidding began during the live, theatre style, auction. The catalog included limited-release and rare wines, large format bottles, art work, chef's table dining opportunities as well as a trip to Italy. Spent from vigorous bidding, guests sat to refresh with an elegant lunch at tables hosted by twenty different wineries.

Beneficiary Spotlight: Midwest Culinary Institute

Built on 35 years of culinary educational excellence, the Midwest Culinary Institute at Cincinnati State was one of 26 beneficiaries to receive a portion of the $250,000 donated by the Cincinnati International Wine Festival on June 12th, 2008.

The funds received by the Midwest Culinary Institute are placed into a scholarship fund which benefits several students and enables them to continue striving towards their academic goals. These scholarships have also assisted in providing students the opportunity to take part in a prominent, cooperative education course through the Walt Disney World College Program.

The Midwest Culinary Institute plays a vital role in the economic development of the Tri-State area. Their noted scholastic distinction will continue to enhance the Cincinnati culinary community.

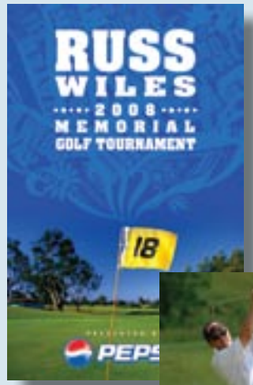
"The Cincinnati International Wine Festival has demonstrated that by working together we can make dreams come true." - Dan Cayse, Dean, Business Technology Division, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College

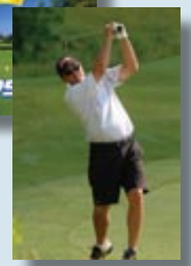
2008 Cincinnati International Wine Festival Beneficiaries

The Cincinnati International Wine Festival is truly unique. We are an event based, non profit organization, that happens to host one of the largest parties in the Midwest which raises funds and distributes grants in our area. A total of $250,000 was donated in 2008 to the following organizations:

- 90.9 FM WGUC
- ALS Association Central & Southern Ohio Chapter
- Art Academy of Cincinnati
- Art Links
- Cancer Family Care
- Carnegie Arts Center
- Catholic Inner-City Schools Education (CISE)
- Children's Home of Northern Kentucky
- Cincinnati Ballet
- Cincinnati Works
- Conductive Learning Center
- Crayons to Computers
- Dan Beard Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Dress for Success
- Emanuel Community Center
- Freestore/Foodbank
- Hamilton County Special Olympics
- Linton Chamber Music Series
- May Festival
- Midwest Culinary Institute
- Pregnancy Center East, Inc.
- Ronald McDonald House
- Stepping Stones Center
- STOP AIDS
- Sudden Infant Death Network of Ohio
- Women Helping Women

"Cincinnati International Wine Festival plays an important role in the healing process here at the Ronald McDonald House. Their generous donation provided an affordable "home away from home" to a long-term guest family and their critically ill child for 125 nights." -Jill Miller, Development Director, Ronald McDonald House





Russ Wiles Memorial Golf Tournament

Beginning with a Dom Perignon toast, it has been called "a tournament like no other" and this year proved no different. A sell out group of 36 foursomes participated in a fabulous day of food, wine and competition at TPC River's Bend. While playing, golfers enjoyed food prepared on the course by some of Cincinnati's best restaurants along with fine wine and ice cold beer. The day's events concluded with prizes presented during a reception in the clubhouse which featured a silent auction. Nobody left empty handed or hungry!

2009 Event Dates

Winery Dinners
Thursday, March 12, 2009, 6:30 p.m.
at Greater Cincinnati Area Restaurants

Grand Tastings
Duke Energy Center
(Cincinnati Convention Center)
Friday, March 13, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Trade only)
Friday, March 13, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Special Tasting Room
Duke Energy Center
Times TBD
Friday, March 13
Saturday, March 14

Charity Auction & Winery Luncheon
Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza
(Hall of Mirrors)
Time TBD
Saturday, March 14th

Russ Wiles Memorial Golf Tournament
Time TBD
Monday, June 15 at TPC River's Bend

For more information and/or to be added to our mailing list please contact:

513.723.WINE (9463)
www.winefestival.com

Looking Ahead in 2009

Join Charles Meeker, Co-Owner/Co-Winemaker and Molly Meeker, Co-Owner, of The Meeker Vineyard in Sonoma County, CA as they serve as our 2009 Honorary Co-Chairs. Largely popularized by their signature "Handprint" Merlot, the Meekers have been a part of the Cincinnati International Wine Festival for over 5 years.

Back by popular demand, 2009 will also mark the return of the Special Tasting Room. As our patron's are becoming more sophisticated wine drinkers, this room gives them the opportunity to taste limited release and reserve wines.

Fun Facts

- Median income of attendees: $90,000
- Amount distributed since 1991: over $2.75 million
- 65% of attendees are 35-59 and 28% are under age 35 (young professionals)

Enjoying their time at the Charity Auction and Luncheon are Roger Taylor, Vice President of Food & Beverage at Columbia Sussex, Honorary Chair, Dennis Speigel, President of International Theme Park Services, Inc. and Geoff Covert, President of Kroger, Cincinnati/Dayton Division.

Helen How bids on a trip to Tuscany at the Charity Auction and Luncheon.

Cincinnati Bengal, Shayne Graham and teammate, Frostee Rucker take pleasure in a glass of wine at the Grand Tastings.

The Grand Tastings offer many guests the ability to savor over 600 different wines.

Beneficiaries of the Cincinnati Internrational Wine Festival received $250,000 at a ceremony on June 12, 2008.

"Thanks to support from the Cincinnati International Wine Festival, we can continue to give underprivileged children the discipline, instruction and values they need to overcome the cycle of poverty and join the countless CISE alumni who are flourishing in high school, college and beyond."
-Cary Powell, Director, Catholic Inner-City Schools Education (CISE) Fund

"The generous support of everyone involved with the Cincinnati Wine Festival has us singing - literally! As "America's Premier Choral Festival", this support allows us to present some of the best choral music to the Greater Cincinnati community-concerts that could be transported to New York, London or Paris!"
-Steven Sunderman, Director of Administration, Marketing and Development, May Festival

CINCINNATI INTERNATIONAL WINE FESTIVAL