

Press Release

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Wine Marlborough Festival To Show Case The Best of Province

World Class Wines with Gourmet Food

Twelve Restaurants Vie For Best Festival Dish

While wine may be what Marlborough is best known for, the upcoming Wine Marlborough Festival will highlight how much else the province has to tantalise the taste buds.

With 25 food sites providing sustenance to the thousands of visitors, the Wine Marlborough Festival has all tastes catered for.

Spokesperson Marcus Pickens, Wine Marlborough's Marketing Manager says the region isn't known as the Gourmet Province for nothing.

"In this small part of New Zealand we produce some of the world's best salmon, mussels, scallops, fish, venison, wild game, cheese and chocolate," he said. "Much of that will be available on the day of the festival for guests to try."

One of the highlights will be the Supreme Food and Wine match, where chefs in tandem with a winery concoct a dish to accompany a particular wine. Each of the dishes entered into the competition will also be available for guests to purchase.

"This is an annual competition and the calibre has been incredibly high. So much so that we felt we needed to have a renowned chef to determine which food and wine match deserves the supreme title. Julie Le Clerc is well known as a culinary author, chef and food personality. We don't envy her the task of selecting the winner."

Leading into the festival diners in Marlborough will also have the chance to experience some of the best food and wine matches local chefs have to offer. A dozen restaurants from the region have entered the Festival Dish competition.

Their task is to promote an original dish, matching it with a Marlborough wine, for diners to select. The competition runs from January 26 through until the day prior to the Wine Festival, Friday February 13. Two judges will sample every one of the dishes, before selecting the top two. Those will again be tasted, with the grand winner being announced at the Wine Festival on Saturday 14th.

Every diner who orders one of the Festival dishes goes into a draw for tickets to the 2010 Wine Marlborough Festival, as well as a case of locally produced wines.

"The response from restaurants has been phenomenal," Marcus said. "Every sector of the trade is represented from cafes through to fine dining. All the competing restaurants are listed on our website; www.wine-marlborough-festival.co.nz."

The Wine Marlborough Festival is the largest and longest running festival of its kind in New Zealand. More than 60 wineries will be on site at Pernod Ricard's Brancott Estate, with more than a five hundred wines available for tasting.

Tickets for the February 14 event are available from www.ticketdirect.co.nz or 0800 224 224 as well as Marlborough Civic Theatre in Blenheim.

For further information:

Marcus Pickens

Marketing Manager Wine Marlborough

Ph +64 357 79299

Mob +64 21 831 820

Email: marcus@wine-marlborough.co.nz