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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Wine Scarecrows” Debut at North Sound Wineries’

Passport Wine Tour

Creative competition adds fun to perfect Veterans’ Day Weekend Getaway

October 29, 2007 – The North Sound Wineries will put their creative grape juices to the test at this year’s annual *Passport Wine Tour*, each displaying its own artistic interpretation of the “Wine Scarecrow” for visitors to enjoy. Limited only by their imaginations, the wineries will strive to design the most unique vineyard watchman ever to scare (or commune with) a pesky bird! Visitors can vote for their favorite scarecrow while tasting the best of the vintage.

The Passport Wine Tour will take place **Veterans’ Day Weekend, Saturday, Nov. 10 through Monday, Nov. 12**. The 10 North Sound Wineries, located on the North Olympic Peninsula, Bainbridge and Whidbey Islands, will be open from **10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** each day. For further information, visit www.northsoundwineries.org or call 800.785.5495.

The North Sound Wine Experience

Each North Sound Winery offers visitors a unique wine tasting experience from the ambiance of the tasting room to the character of its signature wines. Settings range from “rustic mountain hideaway” to “sheet-metal-chic” warehouse to the casual elegance of an historic dairy barn and more. Visitors can pay homage to the area’s seafaring heritage while visiting FairWinds Winery in Port Townsend, and enjoy the works of local artist Betty Rayle while sipping wine at Greenbank Cellars on Whidbey Island.

North Sound wines are crafted by hand, each with a style reflective of the skill and personality of the winemaker who is often found behind the bar pouring samples, answering questions and enjoying the conversation of those who “belly up.” Locally-grown Puget Sound grapes, as well as those sourced from some of Washington’s most esteemed vineyards on the eastern side of the state, are crushed, fermented, aged and bottled on site.

Lost Mountain Winery in Sequim specializes in red wines without added sulfites – an Italian family tradition passed down over three generations. Black Diamond Winery in Port Angeles makes a variety of “locally grown” fruit wines, while Camaraderie Cellars focuses on Bordeaux Blends. Bainbridge Island’s Eleven Winery offers a Cabernet Sauvignon Port that pairs with chocolate for a match made in heaven; while Olympic Cellars, Whidbey Island and FairWinds wineries produce a varietal wine made from the Lemberger grape – Washington State’s lesser-known “heritage” fruit -- and perhaps the biggest sleeper in the history of our state’s wine industry!

As unique as each of the wines are, all pair beautifully with Olympic Coastal Cuisine such as fresh-from-the-sea salmon, steelhead trout, oysters, mussels, razor and *Geoduck* clams, as well as locally harvested fruits, vegetables and berries. The wine lists at many North Sound restaurants, including *The Alderwood Bistro* in Sequim, *Bella Italia*, and *Joy’s Wine Bistro* in Port Angeles, proudly feature local wines. Though North Sound wines can also be found at area wine shops and at some local grocers, several wines are available exclusively in the winery’s tasting room.

Getting There -- The Winery Loop

Wineries located on the North Olympic Peninsula can be accessed from Highway 101 northbound or southbound, and from Victoria, Canada by ferry (via Anacortes). Bainbridge and Whidbey Island wineries can be reached directly via the Washington State Ferry System.

For a relaxing Veterans’ Day Weekend getaway, consider taking in all 10 of the North Sound Wineries via the following easy paced, enjoyable loop route – a wonderful way to celebrate the fall in all its splendor! **An optional \$20 “passport package,” available online (www.northsoundwineries.org) or at any of the wineries, includes a wine glass and complimentary tastings at each winery.**

From the Puget Sound area, start your wine tasting journey with a scenic ferry ride from downtown Seattle to Bainbridge Island. Sample the wines at **Eleven Winery's new tasting room** located on Winslow Way East in the heart of the Winslow shopping district. Next, continue on to the beautiful Olympic Peninsula. In the foothills just beyond Sequim, experience **Lost Mountain Winery's** red wines with no added sulfites.

Continuing west on Highway 101, stop at the historic roadside dairy barn halfway between Sequim and Port Angeles that is **Olympic Cellars**, home of *Working Girl*® wines. Continuing on toward Port Angeles, taste the fruit wines of **Black Diamond Winery**, **Camaraderie Cellars'** award-winning Bordeaux blends and **Harbinger Winery's** signature *Dynamo* wines.

Spend a relaxing night and enjoy fresh Olympic Coastal Cuisine in Port Angeles, Sequim, or Port Townsend. The next day, visit **Sorensen Cellars** and **FairWinds Winery** in historic Port Townsend. Afterwards, catch the Port Townsend ferry to Keystone on scenic Whidbey Island. Visit **Greenbank Cellars** just off Highway 525 on Day and Bakken Roads. Continue south to view the vineyards and savor the wines of **Whidbey Island Winery**. From the south end of Whidbey Island, catch the Clinton Ferry back to Mukilteo just north of Seattle.

Passport Wine Tour Line-Up

Harbinger Winery, Port Angeles

Sampling newly released *Cranberry Bliss* holiday wine, award-winning *Dynamo* series wines, 2005 *Evolution* (a Bordeaux blend), and 2006 White Burgundy. Festive finger foods and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Early shoppers can take advantage of specials on *Red Mountain Rosé*, another excellent holiday wine, and signature holiday baskets on sale throughout Passport weekend. Harbinger attire, including micro fleeces and beanies, will be featured along with Princess Valiant's line of locally roasted coffees, a new gift item.

Camaraderie Cellars, Port Angeles

Featuring two new wine releases: a 2005 Zinfandel from the Wahluke Slope viticultural region and a 2005 Malbec, both fun, palate-expanding wines. Acoustic guitarist Larry Bower will provide musical ambiance on Saturday. Visitors can sample Spanish olive oils, great holiday gift items, on Saturday and Sunday.

Black Diamond Winery, Port Angeles

Pouring a variety of fruit wines produced with estate and locally-grown fruits. The Cranberry Wine is the perfect complement to holiday fare.

Olympic Cellars, Port Angeles

Guests will be greeted by a “pumpkin wine glass” and La Petite Vineyard upon arrival. Three newly released *La Dolce Vida* varietals, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Syrah, will be poured alongside the *Cranberry Jubilee* holiday wine, a cranberry-Chardonnay blend. Cool weather “comfort food” from Michael’s Divine Dining will be paired with wine on Saturday from 12 – 5 p.m. The food and wine can be enjoyed in the comfort of the winery’s Gathering Room. On Sunday from 1 – 3 p.m. the Gathering Room will be filled with the sound of Rosie Sharpe’s acoustic fiddle.

Olympic Cellars wines will be featured at *Dinner La Gerbebaude*, an end of harvest winemaker dinner on Saturday, November 10 at Joy’s Wine Bistro in Port Angeles. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person. View the menu at <http://olympiccellars.com/eventsroot/joydinner/>. For reservations, call 360/452-9449.

Lost Mountain Winery, Sequim

Visitors can taste the newly released 2005 Sangiovese (gold medal winner), 2004 Cabernet Franc, 2004 *RainForest Red*, and *Cellar Rat Red*. Current releases available for tasting include the 2002 Cabernet Sauvignon (gold medal winner), 2003 Syrah (gold medal winner), 2004 Merlot and 2004 *Distinguished Dago Red*.

FairWinds Winery, Port Townsend

Sampling the newly released Lemberger, Cabernet Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and *Port O’Call*. Current releases available for tasting include Aligoté, Gewurztraminer and Blush.

Sorensen Cellars, Port Townsend

Wines available for tasting include the 2002 Sorensen Cellars Merlot, 2004 Sorensen Rosé of Cabernet Franc, 2005 Sangiovese, 2004 Sorensen Syrah.

Greenbank Cellars, Whidbey Island

Pouring the newly released *Bella Bella Sangiovese* (a 5 year barrel-aged Sangiovese), *36 Long*, a new red table wine, and the 2005 Pinot Gris.

Whidbey Island Winery, Whidbey Island

Pouring the double-gold winning *Composition '03*, and releasing new vintages of Sangiovese and Lemberger. Discounted sample packs will include selections of reds and whites chosen to complement autumn fare and winter holidays. Also featuring a case sale throughout Passport weekend for all those who want to stock up for the season.

Eleven Winery, Bainbridge Island

Pouring the newly released 2006 Pinot Gris and 2005 *La Ronde*, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Other wines available for tasting include the 2005 Sauvignon Blanc, 2006 *La Primavera* dry rosé, 2005 Malbec and 2004 Syrah, as well as the 2006 Pinot Gris Port and 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon Port.

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