

Kathy Charlton, President
Olympic Peninsula Wineries
360/452-0160
360/808-0206 Cell
kathy@olympiccellars.com

Media Contact: Deborah Anastasi Black
425/357-1651
206/799-4233 Cell
deborahblack@comcast.net

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Red Wine & Chocolate in North Olympic Wine Country

Seven World-Class Wineries, One Spectacular Region

Jan. 28, 2008 – The Olympic Peninsula Wineries Association invites the public to experience premium handcrafted red wines carefully paired with an assortment of chocolate delights at its upcoming annual *Red Wine & Chocolate Tour*. The popular two-weekend event will take place on **Feb. 9-10** and **Feb. 16-17-18 (Presidents' Day Weekend)** from **11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

New this year, a **Winemakers' Dinner** at Cedar Creek Restaurant in Sequim will showcase the "Best of the Olympic Peninsula," pairing Italian inspired Northwest cuisine with wine from each of the Peninsula's seven award-winning wineries. The five-course dinner will take place on Sunday, Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person. For reservations, call 360.683.3983.

"Nothing is more delicious than a good red wine and the right chocolate shared amid the North Olympic Peninsula's beautiful snow-capped mountain peaks, quiet meadows and coastal waters," says Association President Kathy Charlton. "It's the quintessential Valentine's get-away! With the addition of the Winemaker's Dinner visitors can now experience the best of all seven artisan wineries in one spot. However, those who visit all seven of our wineries throughout the weekend will be entered in a drawing for an elegantly packaged Olympic Peninsula gift basket."

The North Olympic Peninsula can be accessed in less than three hours drive from areas in north, south and central-eastside Puget Sound.

Optional "reserve tickets" are available online or at any of the member wineries for \$15.00, and entitle the holder to exclusive benefits available only during the event weekends. **Visit www.olympicpeninsulawineries.org or call 800-785-5495 for further information.**

Individual Winery Events

Black Diamond Winery, Port Angeles: Black Diamond specializes in a variety of fruit wines produced with estate and locally-grown fruits. The winery will feature its Raspberry and Loganberry dessert wines along with a selection of other current vintages for the Red Wine & Chocolate celebration. Dark chocolates will be available for pairing with the dessert wines. For more information call 360/457-0748 or visit <http://home.wavecable.com/~bdwinery/>

Camaraderie Cellars, Port Angeles: Visitors can enjoy luscious reds -- including a few full, rich, older vintages pulled from the Camaraderie library -- along with popular current vintages. See how the 2001 and 2004 Cabernet Sauvignons compare. Fair trade chocolates, which directly benefit the cacao farmers, will be featured along with **Molly Babies Company's** delicious chocolate shortbread cookies. Camaraderie will offer special pricing on poured wines -- a great opportunity to stock your cellars -- as well as the usual case and half-case discounts. For more information call 360/417-3564 or visit www.camaraderiecellars.com.

FairWinds Winery, Port Townsend: The chocolate fountain, FairWinds' Red Wine & Chocolate tradition, will flow again this year! Come and experience the award-winning *Port O' Call* with a selection of fruits and cake dipped in flowing chocolate. All wines will be available for tasting. For more information call 360/385-6899 or visit www.fairwindswinery.com.

Harbinger Winery, Port Angeles: Join Harbinger in celebrating the official release of its 2006 Columbia Valley Merlot, and the 2007 Raspberry Bliss. On February 9-10, Denise Brennan of *Princess Valiant Chocolate and Coffee Co.* will sample her handmade chocolates. On February 16-18, *Theo Chocolates* of Seattle will present Organic & Free Trade chocolates from around the world. Harpist Ingrid Alexander of *Enchanted Strings of Port Angeles* will entertain guests with her ethereal touch on Sunday, Feb. 17 from 1-3 p.m. Admission is free. For further information call 360/452-4262 or visit www.harbingerwinery.com/index.html.

Lost Mountain Winery, Sequim: Sample the newly released 2005 Barbera along with four other red wines, paired with French truffles. Visitors receive a 10 percent discount on the half-case sampler pack. For more information call 360/683-5229 or visit www.lostmountain.com.

Olympic Cellars, Port Angeles: Indulge your senses with Cashmere, Cabernet & Chocolate! Hear the sultry jazz drifting from our Gathering Room. Bask in the delightful ambiance of our tasting room while sipping an elegant cabernet with the taste of a luscious Yvonne Yakota dark

chocolate truffle on your lips. Then top it all off with the luxurious feel of a red cashmere scarf around your neck! The scarf is your gift from Olympic Cellars, included with a specially priced selection of wine. Can't get enough chocolate? Then trade your scarf in for a specially prepared package of wine pairing chocolates made just for Olympic Cellars by *Xocolates*, the 2007 Gold Medal Winner at the San Francisco International Chocolate Salon Competition. The music will play from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. on Feb. 9, 10, 16 & 17. For more information call 360/452-0160; www.olympiccellars.com.

Off-Site Events

The Valentine Winemaker Dinner with Olympic Cellars Winemaker Benoit Murat is back this year by popular request. The dinner will take place at Joy's Wine Bistro in Port Angeles on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Chocolate will be incorporated into each of five courses. The cost is \$50, not including tax or gratuity.

Joy's Wine Bistro will also feature a new pre-set Nightly Dinner Menu paired with Olympic Cellars wines from Friday, Feb. 10 through Sunday, Feb. 17. The three-course menu will feature chocolate throughout. Cost is \$30 for three courses; \$45 with wine pairing. For further information and reservations call 360/452-9449.

Sorensen Cellars, Port Townsend: Winemaker Richard Sorensen will introduce his 2004 Cabernet Franc from Ciel du Cheval Vineyard on Red Mountain. Yvonne from *Yvonne's Artisan Chocolates* in Sequim will be on site demonstrating several of her fine offerings for pairing with a selection of red wines. Pre-packaged truffles will be available for sale. For more information call 360/379-6416 or visit www.sorensencellars.com.

###