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Sonoma Odyssey of Food & Wine
A Gala and Auction Under the Oaks

Healdsburg, California (March 6, 2007) -- A dozen chefs from the Sonoma County Culinary Guild and 30 Sonoma County wineries will work in concert under majestic oak trees on Saturday, September 15, 2-5:30 PM at the Sonoma Odyssey of Food & Wine, the annual fundraiser of the Wine Library Associates of Sonoma County (www.sonomaodyssey.org). This year's presentation brings back one of the most diverse combinations of food and wine anywhere, and a new offering of silent and live auction items. Proceeds benefit the Sonoma County Wine Library as well as the Employee Development Program of the co-producer, the Sonoma County Grape Growers Foundation.



Reservations may be made by phone (707.431.2898) or mail (with check to "Sonoma Odyssey/WLASC," P. O. Box 43, Healdsburg, CA 95448). Tickets are \$45 for members of the Wine Library Associates and the Sonoma County Culinary Guild, and \$50 for non-members.

The Sonoma Odyssey of Food & Wine returns to Richard's Grove and Saralee's Vineyard in the heart of the Russian River Valley with a fresh crop of collectable wine lots, creative artifacts and wine-country lifestyle activities slated for auction or raffle. For the palate, each participating member of the Culinary Guild will prepare a special appetizer that may be paired with any of the 100-or-so wines on hand. Those in search of book bargains will once again be able to browse the Wine Library's book tent.

The Sonoma County Wine Library (www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/wine.html) is a special collection and service of the Sonoma County Library that is located in the Healdsburg Regional Library. Funded by the Wine Library Associates, the county and the local wine industry, the library provides business, technical, historical and consumer information on wine. It offers more than 5,000 books and subscriptions to some 80 periodicals as well as maps, photographs, labels, clippings and extensive current and historic wine information files. Its one-of-a-kind online database may be accessed at www.winefiles.org.

Initiated in November 2003 by the Sonoma County Grape Growers Association, the Employee Development Program is an ongoing, comprehensive seminar series taught in Spanish that covers the important aspects of viticulture and employee management. The program is intended to attract, retain and advance vineyard employees in agricultural careers. Twenty-six classes have been offered to date with attendance averaging 50 vineyard employees per session.

Running parallel to the Employee Development Program, the Spanish-speaking Outreach Program of the Sonoma County Wine Library includes workshops in viticulture and library tours. Wine Librarian Bo Simons says that his organization has co-produced a handful of classes, sometimes with the help of Santa Rosa Junior College, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, and the University of California Cooperative Extension.



The Sonoma County Culinary Guild (www.sonomacountyculinaryguild.org) is an alliance of food, beverage and agriculture professionals and friends dedicated to education, resource sharing and community service. The Guild is an open forum that explores common interests in a convivial atmosphere. The diverse membership respects the heritage and supports the promise of agriculture in Sonoma County.

The Wine Library Associates of Sonoma County (www.sonomaodyssey.org) is a non-profit organization that supports the Sonoma County Wine Library with fundraising, volunteers and special events.

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