

For Immediate Release
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Wineries of Columbia Gorge Announce Passport Weekend 2010
Tour 'A World of Wine in 40 Miles' April 9-11, 2010

Hood River, Oregon, January 25, 2010 – The Columbia Gorge Winegrowers announce the return of the successful Passport Weekend program on April 9-11, 2010. “The program was a great success in 2009, and we are excited to provide an opportunity to showcase our winegrowing region and help boost visitors to our area,” says Autumn Woods, Marketing Coordinator for the Columbia Gorge Winegrowers Association. The Passport Weekend started in 2009, made possible by a grant from the Oregon Tourism Commission, also known as Travel Oregon. The successful Gorge Winegrowers’ Celebration for Hospice has been moved to the Passport weekend this year.

The 2010 event kicks-off with a tasting in Portland on Monday, April 5 at the Hotel Monaco from 5pm – 8pm. Guests at the Passport Preview Tasting will have a special chance to taste a selection of wines from the Columbia Gorge, as well as learn about travel resources from the Gorge area visitor associations. Tickets for the Tasting are \$25 each and will include a glass, wine tasting, a Passport, and appetizers from Red Star Tavern to pair with the wines. A trade-only tasting will be held in the afternoon from 2pm – 5pm. Tickets are available online at the Columbia Gorge Winegrowers’ website: columbiagorgewine.com

The main event – Passport Weekend – takes place Friday, April 9 – Sunday, April 11. Passport booklets are \$15 each and include a variety of special tasting opportunities, food pairings and entertainment at Gorge area wineries for Passport holders. Gorge area lodging partners are offering special rates for the weekend, with details posted at columbiagorgewine.com. Last year, the weekend brought around 500 people to the area to discover ‘A World of Wines’ grown and produced in the Columbia Gorge. Passports are available online or at Gorge area tasting rooms.

To add to the weekend of fun, the Columbia Gorge Winegrowers’ Celebration for Hospice will be held Saturday, April 10 at The Gorge Room at the Hood River Best Western Inn. The evening event is a fundraiser for Hospice of the Gorge, produced by the local wineries and includes wine tasting, dinner, entertainment, and live and silent auctions. Exclusive auction packages are presented by the wineries, such as a one of a kind barrel of wine blended from COR Cellars Cabernet, Phelps Creek Vineyards Merlot, The Pines 1852 Zinfandel and Syncline Syrah. The blend is managed and aged by James Mantone at Syncline. Tickets to the event are \$50 each, with a discount available to Passport Holders. Details are available at by calling 1-866-413-WINE or visiting columbiagorgewine.com.

The Columbia Gorge Winegrowers Association is a not for profit association of local wineries, grape growers, and wine-related businesses from the Columbia Gorge and Columbia Valley Appellations in both Oregon and Washington. Together, the 60+ members of the association promote the award - winning wines and grapes of the Columbia River Gorge region. For more information please visit the website at columbiagorgewine.com or call 1-866-413-WINE.

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