

GLEN ELLEN • KENWOOD • CALIFORNIA



For Immediate Release

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***Come to the Wine Country for Thanksgiving -
You'll Leave Your "Heart" in Sonoma Valley***

In the autumn of 2003 your smartest weekend destination could be the fabled wine country of Sonoma Valley - especially at Thanksgiving, when a fellowship of romantic, history-laden wineries in the rolling stretches of russet hillside meadows about halfway between Sonoma and Santa Rosa - the heart of Sonoma Valley - stages its avidly-anticipated Thanksgiving Holiday Open House.

The area is well known - for over 150 years viticultural pioneers have been producing award-winning vintages there - and easy to find. If Highway 12 were a grapevine when it winds through Glen Ellen and Kenwood it would sport this exceptional cluster of wine producers called HOSVA - the Heart of Sonoma Valley Association - a consortium of vintners and tasting rooms established in the mid-1980s to celebrate and promote their wines and share the wealth with local charities, with seasonal benefit events beginning with the mid-March Spring Barrel Tasting and ringing in the winter solstice with the Thanksgiving Holiday Open House and Festival of Lights.

The weekend of gourmet food pairings with tastings of fabulous wines, HOSVA's big open-arms Thanksgiving bash begins Friday, November 28 through Saturday November 29 at member wineries and tasting rooms. (See below for details) and is the perfect opportunity for travelers to rediscover Jack London's storied Valley of the Moon, sip some of the finest wines in the world, shop for gifts in winery hospitality rooms, dine in famed bistros and spend the night in a charming local inn or B&B. Wineries and tasting rooms will showcase winter holiday themed culinary creations paired with premier varietals. Learn the art of selecting wines to complement seasonal feasts from wine savvy tasting staff while enjoying festive entertainment.

Hours are from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days. The festivities close Saturday evening, November 29, with the Star of the Valley Church's community favorite, The Festival of Lights, a dazzling burst of sparkling lights, music and frivolity from 6-9 p.m. at six participating wineries in Kenwood: Blackstone, Chateau St. Jean, Landmark, Ledson, St. Francis, and Stone Creek.

Admission for the two-day Holiday Open House celebration is included with the purchase of a \$20.00 souvenir glass good for tastings at participating wineries: Arrowood, Blackstone, Chateau St. Jean, Family Wineries, Kunde Estate, Ledson, Mayo, St. Francis, Stone Creek, Wellington and The Wine Room. Designated drivers will be admitted free and served seasonal ciders and soft drinks, Admission to the Festival of Lights is \$25.00; designated drivers \$15.00. Both events benefit local charities. For more information, directions, and details for the Holiday Open House call: 1-800.543.7713 Ext. 242/www.heartofsonomavalley.com. For information and reservations for the Festival of Lights call: 1-800-543-7713.