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“2008 Kentucky Wine & Vine Fest, Presented by Toyota on Nicholasville adds New Events, Sponsors”

In addition to a first-ever title sponsor (Toyota on Nicholasville), the 2008 Kentucky Wine & Vine Fest has several exciting new items to add to an already “bursting at the seams” festival lineup.

The festival is a Nicholasville NOW! event and is held each year in the historic downtown Nicholasville area of Jessamine County, Kentucky. Established festival favorites include: the Grape Growers Barbeque and Dance (5/8) at the RJ Corman Hangar, a Kentucky Wine & Vine Fest Golf Tournament at Connemara Golf Course (5/9), and the Wine Social Dinner and Dance (5/9), held this year at Chrisman Mill Winery and Vineyards. On Saturday, 5/10, festival activities include Cooking with Wine Demonstrations by renowned local chefs, a “Run for the Merlot” competition, and an International and Domestic Wine Tent as well as a Kentucky Wine Tent. The Kentucky Wine Tent will offer tastings from approximately 12 Kentucky vineyards and wineries.

Organizers are especially excited to announce that Ricardo Ullrich, a representative of Chile’s Vina La Rosa vineyards and wineries, will be present to pour his own wines on Saturday in the festival’s International and Domestic Wine Tent. “The Chile region and their wines are really popular right now,” said festival volunteer Kimberly Arvin. “We’re thrilled that Ricardo will be there all day to pour his wines.”

Other new events and festival aspects include: a Commercial Wine Making Competition (presented in partnership with the support of the Kentucky Grape and Wine Council) and a Kentucky Wine Country Bus Tour (presented in partnership with WineTutor.com) that will take wine enthusiasts on a fun and informative “vine to winery” tour of vineyards and wineries in several Kentucky counties. Both additions to the festival will “significantly increase” the festival’s support and celebration of agri-tourism in Kentucky, as well as Nicholasville NOW!’s work to ensure that downtown Nicholasville continues to be a beautiful, thriving community, according to Jessamine County Extension Agent and Nicholasville NOW! President Rob Amburgey. Also new this year: Lexington Clinic is title sponsor of Friday’s events, including the Kentucky Wine & Vine Fest Golf Tournament and the Wine Social, Dinner & Dance; Triple Crown Golf Cars will sponsor the Kentucky Arts & Crafts Area; and Kentucky Bank is title sponsor of the Grape Growers Barbeque & Dance.

Last year’s introduction of a fine arts festival poster has been continued in this year’s lineup, but with a twist: instead of commissioning one artist to create the poster, this year, the festival committee authorized a statewide fine arts competition with a \$250 prize. The winning design was submitted by Nicholasville resident Bill Dawson, a freelance graphic design artist and Lexington Herald-Leader prepress operator.

As he presented a \$15,000 title sponsorship check to festival organizers at a recent press conference, Dave Conley, manager of Toyota on Nicholasville, said, “We are proud to serve as title sponsors of an event that brings thousands to Nicholasville and Jessamine County.” Nicholasville NOW! is a non profit organization that promotes the historic preservation and revitalization of historic downtown Nicholasville. Other festival sponsors include Fox 56, WUKY NPR Radio, Nicholasville Tourism, Town Square Bank, MedShoppe Medical, Kentucky Monthly, Cincinnati Magazine, Chrisman Mill Winery and Vineyard, eSign and Graphics, Isenhour Incorporated, Rogers Retreats with Gift Baskets Galore and Gourmet Goodies.

Tickets for the Grape Growers Barbeque at the RJ Corman Hangar are \$15. Tickets for the Kentucky Wine & Vine Social Dinner and Dance at Chrisman Mill Winery and Vineyard are \$50. Kentucky Wine Country Bus Tour tickets are \$65. Tickets and information are available at www.kywineandvine.com or by calling Tonya Coleman, executive director of Nicholasville NOW! at (859) 881-3820.