

## Kentucky Wine & Vine Fest is Saturday in Nicholasville

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By Zoya Tereshkova

Sometime in the future, The Kentucky Wine and Vine Fest, which will be held for the first time in Nicholasville Saturday, could be the town's biggest cultural event of the year.

"It's going to grow to be a state-wide festival, and it will attract people from across the country and abroad," Carola Hartley, one of the coordinators of the event, predicted.

Hartley is the director of Nicholasville Now!, which organized the event.

People who attend Saturday will have a chance to "experience a lot of things: the local culture, the local history, and a variety of local food," she said.

The festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on York Street between East Maple and West Oak streets, with the area being blocked for the event.

"We'll have 18 food and arts and crafts booths, including a candymaker, a small cheese-making company, kettle corn stand, and also a quilter and a grapevine wreath maker," said Hartley.

The members of Jessamine County Beef Cattle Association will be cooking for the event, and there will be funnel cakes and other desserts for sale.

At noon, the music will begin, and it will continue until the end of the festival. Jerry Kiedrowski & Soul Patch, a rhythm and blues group from Richmond, will perform from noon to 2 p.m., followed by The Bottomline, a bluegrass band from Ashland. From 4 to 8 p.m., The Ingram Quintet jazz group will be on stage.

"This part of the festival is free and open to everybody," said Hartley.

To get to either one of the two wine tents, one has to be over 21 and purchase a \$5 ticket. In addition, there will be tickets for sale that can be used to get a one-ounce sample, a glass or a bottle of wine.

"That will be a fenced area of the festival," said Hartley. "There will be two tents, one of Kentucky wine, and one of domestic and international wines. Both will be selling wine by samples and glasses, and Kentucky [vintners] will also sell bottles that cannot be opened at the festival."

Seven Kentucky vineyards, including Chrisman Mill Vineyards in Jessamine County, and five wholesalers and distributors will have displays at the festival.

At 4 and 5:30 p.m., chef Joseph Arvin will be doing cooking demonstrations. He will cook an appetizer, a meat and seafood dish and a dessert. The event is also free, but there will be a limited number of \$5 tickets for those who want to sit down and eat the food just prepared.

"Those tickets will be sold on a first come, first go basis, and those who want to eat need to come early," Hartley said.

A live auction will also start at 4 p.m.

"We have some truly unique items like collectible bottles signed by famous horse owners and jockeys, Kentucky wine signed by the makers, some antiques, gift baskets, tickets to the Old Kentucky Dinner Train and coupons for various businesses," said Hartley.

The festival will give its organizers "a unique opportunity to promote not only Nicholasville and Jessamine County, but also a new agricultural crop in Kentucky."

"We're anticipating beautiful weather. We know we'll have beautiful people. It's going to be a fine event for Nicholasville, celebrating both history and the new industry for Kentucky," Hartley said.

Jessamine County was the birthplace of the wine industry in the United States. The first commercial vineyard was established here in 1798.

For more information and to sign up as a volunteer with the event, call Nicholasville Now! at 881-3820.