

Gardiner's Resort

GARDINER'S RESORT UNVEILS PLANS FOR YULEFEST

Christmas Festival of Fine Food, Fine Wine and Holiday Fun Set for December 12-14

Carmel Valley's Gardiner's Resort announced today that it would host the First Annual YuleFest, December 12-14, 2008. The three-day Christmas event will present festive holiday dining experiences featuring four of the Monterey Peninsula's most esteemed chefs, a wine tasting from some of the country's top winemakers, a puppet show brunch for children of all ages and a holiday marketplace.

According to YuleFest's Executive Director, Robert Fried, who created the event, "The Monterey County area is rightfully proud of its wonderful array of "mark your calendar" events. Our goal is to fashion a festive, warm and cozy annual Christmas event that will both delight and unite all members of the family."

The holiday events will kick off Friday evening with a tree-lighting ceremony, followed by a festive dinner and run throughout the weekend ending with a children's Christmas Puppet Show brunch and snowman building contest on Sunday.

"We are very excited for the opportunity to transform our naturally beautiful resort into a festive winter wonderland replete with Christmas decorations, a lighted Christmas forest, and a Santa's workshop/marketplace," said Monique Gardiner.

Cheryl Fournier, General Manager of Gardiner's Resort added, "YuleFest promises to be one of the real highlight events of the Christmas season. We are looking forward to making this an annual event that will allow everyone to capture the true spirit, togetherness and warmth of the holidays."

Part of the proceeds will go to the Boys & Girls Club of Monterey County. "We are really excited about being part of what is shaping up to become the premier annual Christmas event in the area," said Donna Ferraro, CEO/President of B&GCMC. "We are delighted to participate in the event with a children's Christmas choir performance on Sunday."

On Friday evening, December 12, Gardiner's Executive Chef Hugo Barragán has invited Stoke's restaurant's Executive Chef Brandon Miller to join him in creating a memorable 5-course holiday dinner. On Saturday evening, December 13, the guest chef will be Casanova restaurant's Executive Chef James Romero. The evening will be filled with a historical presentation of the greatest Christmas music of all time. Both of the evenings festivities will be capped off with a surprise celebrity-guest reading of "Twas The Night Before Christmas".

Some of the world's finest winemakers, along with celebrated television chef and culinary artist Wendy Brodie, will join together in the Holiday Wine tasting event slated for Saturday afternoon, December 13. Brodie will provide a gourmet array of culinary delicacies that will blend in beautifully with the renowned wine offerings.

Many of the event's more heralded winemakers include:

- Gary Pisoni – Pisoni Vineyards
- Kris Curran – Formerly of Sea Smoke, now Foley Wine Group
- Nick Goldschmidt – Goldschmidt / Forefathers Vineyard
- Dan Karlsen – Talbott Vineyards
- Dean de Korth – Bernardus Winery
- Bryan Overhauser – San Saba Estate
- Carrissa Chappellet – Chappellet Vineyards
- Adam Godlee Campbell – Elk Cove Vineyards (Oregon)
- Eric Hamacher – Hamacher Wines (Oregon)
- Peter Figge – Figge Cellars
- Sarah Cohn Bennett – Navarro Vineyards and Winery
- Bradley Brown – Big Basin Vineyards
- Jamie Kutch – Kutch
- John Saunders – Saunders Vineyard/Boëté Winery
- Damien Georis – Georis Winery

Tickets are expected to be in the range of \$125 for the Friday and Saturday dinner extravaganzas and \$95 for the Saturday premier wine tasting celebration. The Sunday brunch, caroling and puppet show will be \$35 for adults and \$20 for children.

For reservations and ticket information call Gardiner's Resort at 1-800-453-6225.

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