



PRESS RELEASE

9 March 2009

Bristol Wine & Food Fair signs up top UK wine experts

Plans for this year's Bristol Wine & Food Fair, from **10 – 12 July 2009**, have been given a boost with the news that leading law firm Clarke Willmott has agreed to sponsor the popular Chef's Theatre. Organisers have also announced that some of the country's top wine experts including Susy Atkins, Tim Aitkin, John Avery and Fiona Beckett will be heading up the programme of wine & cheese tasting lectures.

The three day festival, on Bristol Harbourside, will offer enthusiasts the chance to sample, enjoy, learn and discover more about fine wine and good food bringing together top quality wines from around the world with the best in regional food and fine dining.

Visitors will be able to browse amongst over 40 wine producers and exhibitors, tasting different wines from all over the world, which they can then buy by the glass, bottle or case. Food lovers will enjoy the Chef's Theatre, hosted by Barny Haughton from Bordeaux Quay, the wine and cheese pavilions showcasing acclaimed UK cheese producers and small independent wine importers and the popular food and drink market selling a selection of some of the region's best produce.

New features this year include: longer opening times with a dedicated Business Hospitality Day session on Friday during the day, additional wine marquee space and the extended wine and cheese tasting programme. Budding wine enthusiasts can also join in one of the new themed wine walks, led by a wine expert who will help visitors discover some of the exciting wines on offer, or opt for a 10 minute free wine tasting tutorial hosted by the West of England Wine & Spirit Association.

At the centre of the fair, there will also be a new large covered restaurant and bar area where visitors can try a range of dishes matched with selected wines or enjoy tapas and a drink from the bar against the backdrop of some musical entertainment.

Last year the wine & food tasting lectures were a sell out and the programme has been extended to offer more visitors the chance to learn from the experts. The line up of wine experts includes Susy Atkin who writes a weekly column for the Sunday Telegraph, is wine editor for Delicious magazine and a regular on BBC 's Saturday Kitchen and Market Kitchen. She will be joined by Tim Aitkin, wine writer for the Observer, Fiona Beckett an award-winning food and wine author and local celebrity John Avery who is the fourth generation of family at Averys wine merchants and one of the country's senior Masters of Wine.

The 2009 ticket price will include a free Wine & Food Fair ISO tasting glass and the full event programme. Opening times have also been extended with public sessions on Friday evening (5.30 – 10.30pm) and two on Saturday (11.30am – 4pm and 5.30pm – 10.30pm) and one session on Sunday (11.30am – 6pm). As well as single session tickets there will be a new weekend pass which will allow entry to all public sessions throughout the three days.

Event organiser Chris Scholes, from Bristol Event Management said: "In these difficult times we are even more delighted that Clarke Willmott have agreed to sponsor the Chef's Theatre. This is great partnership for the event and we are looking forward to working closely with them over the next few months. We have also been

encouraged by the numbers of exhibitors who have signed up again as well as many new companies including Yalumba, Australia's oldest family owned winery and ViniPortugal which represents some of the best Portuguese wines and ports."

ENDS



NOTES TO EDITORS:

For further information, visit the event website www.bristolwineandfoodfair.co.uk.

Ticket information & Opening times:

Tickets on sale from 2nd April 2009 from www.bristolwineandfoodfair.co.uk and The Bristol Ticket Shop
Ticket price includes an official ISO tasting glass and full event programme.

Single session tickets: £8 in advance, £10 on the day

Weekend pass for entry to all sessions: £15

Children under 16: free entry OAP Card Holders: £7 available from box office on day

Business Hospitality Day:

Friday 10 July - Day 11.30am – 4.00pm

Public Sessions:

Friday 10 July - Evening 5.30pm – 10.30pm

Saturday 11 July - Day 11.30am – 4.00pm

Saturday 11 July - Evening 5.30pm – 10.30pm

Sunday 12 July - Day 11.30am – 6.00pm

Location: Lloyds Amphitheatre & Waterfront Square, Canons Way, Bristol Harbourside, BS1 5LL

Ends

For further information about the event, please contact:

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