



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FINE WINES AND BALLROOM DANCING ... A PERFECT PAIR!**

*Illinois Wine Experience Offered Daily from Noon – 10 p.m. in the Twilight Ballroom during the Illinois State Fair*

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. -- What type of wine goes with a little ballroom dancing? At the Illinois State Fair the answer is simple – Illinois wine!

The Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association (IGGVA) will host the Illinois Wine Experience in a brand new location in the Twilight Ballroom. The Twilight Ballroom is located on Central Avenue between the U.S. Cellular High Dive Show and the Coliseum.

The Illinois wineries taking part in the Illinois Wine Experience include: Ridge View Winery, Mt. Sterling; Pheasant Hollow Winery, Whittington; Fox Creek Vineyards, Olney; Lasata Winery, Lawrenceville; Illinois River Winery, Utica; Hill Prairie Winery, Oakford; Berryville Vineyards, Claremont; Baxter's Vineyards & Winery, Nauvoo; Hopewell Winery, Rockport; Hogg Hollow Winery, Glendale; Owl Creek Vineyard, Cobden; Mary Michelle Winery, Carrollton; Prairie State Winery, Genoa; Shawnee Winery, Vienna; Piasa Winery, Grafton; Kickapoo Creek Winery, Edwards; Alto Vineyards, Alto Pass; Pomona Winery, Pomona; and Willett's Winery, Manito.

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As in past years the Twilight Ballroom will feature nightly entertainment from a number of varied and talented jazz, swing, blues, big band, orchestral, and dance musicians from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. each night. A full schedule of the musicians is available at <http://www.agr.state.il.us/isf/twilight/>.

Admission is free, with sampling tickets available for \$1 each. Wine may also be purchased by the glass, bottle and case from each winery. The event is open to anyone, must be 21 years of age or older to taste the wines.

A special tasting of the 2008 Illinois State Fair Wine Competition award winners will take place Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 3 p.m. in the Twilight Ballroom.

The Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association (IGGVA), established in 1992, is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing the viticulture and enology interests of Illinois through information exchange and cooperation among Illinois grape producers and vintners. The Illinois wine industry has exploded in recent years, growing from just 12 wineries in 1997 to 79 today. During this time, the acreage devoted to grape production has grown at a tremendous rate, and today Illinois is consistently among the top 12 wine-producing states. Today the Illinois wine industry creates a direct economic impact of more than \$253 million annually. The nearly 80 wineries that span Illinois have also brought with them a host of charming bed and breakfasts and local crafts businesses. The Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Association predicts continued growth in the coming years as more visitors discover the genuine culture of Illinois Wine Country.

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