



Cincinnati International Wine Festival

REPORT to the
COMMUNITY | 2019

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Our first Cincinnati International Wine Festival began in 1991 and started as a rather small, charitable event that introduced many people to fine wines and benefited public radio - WGUC. Since then we've come a long, long way! I am so pleased to announce that we have reached a major milestone- over the past 29 years we have distributed \$6 million dollars to over 35 charitable groups throughout Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. These incredible organizations support the arts, education, and health and human services. Cincinnati has always been known as a philanthropic community, and we are so proud to be part of a city that gives back. Thank you for helping us "Give Back One Glass at a Time!"

Once again, I want to thank so many people for their continued support: our generous sponsors, our local wine distributors, the thousands of attendees, our hundreds of volunteers, our passionate board of directors and our dedicated staff. A special thank you goes to the wineries from around the world that spend the weekend in our city and generously donate all the wine for our events. Like I always say, "There is no wine festival without wine!"

Our annual festival weekend in early March highlights the very best that Cincinnati has to offer. All things great about our city are proudly on display as visitors come, stay in our hotels, dine in our restaurants, shop in our stores, and participate in the festivities. The economic impact is significant.

As soon as one festival ends, we begin planning for the next! We are very busy working on some exciting things for our 30th year. On behalf of our entire board of directors, I want to encourage you to get involved in this fun-filled week that is the Cincinnati International Wine Festival.

Come to the Party!

Connie Wiles

Connie Wiles

2019 WINE FESTIVAL

Fun Facts

- 200 Wineries Present
- 14 Countries Represented
- 700 Types of Wine Served
- 5,500 Attendees
- 35 Charities Supported
- \$406,000 Dollars Donated

The patronage and support of the Greater Cincinnati community enables the festival to continue “giving back, one glass at a time.”



FOUNDER

Russ Wiles, 1939-2003

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Connie Wiles, President
Barry Oppelt, Treasurer
Mary Ann Bokenkotter
George Elliott
Marilyn Harris
Mary Horn
Michael Miller
John Mocker
Dan Temming
Marj Valvano

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Debbie Dent (*Outgoing Executive Director, through July 31, 2019*)
Kelly Weissmann (*Incoming Executive Director, as of June 1, 2019*)

EVENT COORDINATOR

Amanda Pack

OUR EVENTS



WINERY DINNER SERIES

The 2019 wine festival kicked off with a special winery dinner at The Mercer OTR, hosted by Honorary Chair Mark Beringer of Beringer Vineyards. Exclusive winery dinners across the city followed at 15 of the area's finest restaurants in partnership with wineries from around the globe. These unique and intimate dining experiences allow guests to learn about each wine from winery hosts as the wines are paired with delicious cuisine, masterfully prepared by some of Cincinnati's most prestigious chefs. This exciting dinner series will continue in 2020 – don't miss it!

GRAND TASTINGS

More than 5,500 attendees joined Honorary Chair Mark Beringer in the exquisite Grand Ballroom at the Duke Energy Convention Center as they tasted, sipped and swirled fine wines and sampled small bites during the festival's grand tastings on Friday and Saturday. Guests had the opportunity to select from more than 700 international and domestic wines, taste a variety of delicious foods, and bid on impressive silent auction items. The grand tastings only continue to grow in popularity and attract new wine lovers each year.

CHARITY AUCTION AND LUNCHEON

The excitement for the charity auction and luncheon was larger than life in 2019! Dan Greathouse of Heidelberg Distributing enthusiastically presided over the live auction as guests enjoyed fine wines while bidding on high-value, wine related silent and live auction items with luncheon co-chairs Bethanie Butcher and Marcus Relthford. Executive Chef George Zappas created a beautiful lunch menu to complement the prestigious wineries featured at each table in the Hall of Mirrors at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza.

RUSS WILES MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The beautiful and scenic TPC River's Bend was home to the 20th annual Russ Wiles Memorial Golf Tournament in June, with Honorary Chair Brent Wagener. Foursomes competed at the “tournament like no other” while enjoying wine, ice-cold beer, and tasty bites freshly prepared along the course by fine local restaurants. The day concluded with a clubhouse reception overlooking the 18th green along with contest prizes and fantastic tee gifts to commemorate this special tournament. Many new raffle prizes were added in 2019, and nearly every participant walked out with a bonus gift.

Giving Back One Glass at a Time

The wine festival's 2019 events were a great success. Thanks to the support and patronage of the Greater Cincinnati community, the Cincinnati International Wine Festival granted an astounding \$406,000 to 35 non-profit organizations in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky in 2019. This donation brought the festival's total philanthropic impact to a historic new level, totaling \$6 million given to local charities since 1991!

90.0 FM WGUC

Abilities First
ALS Association Central and Southern Ohio
Alzheimer's Association Greater Cincinnati
Art Links
Asian Community Alliance
Cancer Family Care
Carnegie Arts Center
Catholic Inner-city School Education (CISE)
Children's Home of Northern Kentucky
The Cincinnati Ballet
Cincinnati Orchestra Club Audrey Dick
Scholarship Fund
Cincinnati Works
Concert: Nova
Conductive Learning Center
Crayons to Computers
Dan Beard Council Boy Scouts of America
De Cavel Family SIDS Foundation

Dress for Success

Fernside
Freestore Foodbank
Kentucky Symphony Orchestra
Linton Chamber Music Series
Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
Master Provisions
May Festival
Mercy Neighborhood Ministries
Miami University Foundation- Donald E. Becker
Memorial
Midwest Culinary Institute
Project Peace
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater
Cincinnati
Special Olympics Hamilton County
Stepping Stones Center
Tender Mercies
Women Helping Women

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN 2020

Join Honorary Chair Suzanne Groth, CEO and President of Groth Vineyards & Winery in Oakville, California, for the 30th Annual Cincinnati International Wine Festival, March 12-14! The festival will be celebrating its global roots to honor its 30th anniversary year with more international wines and exciting food, as it brings cultures and communities together, one glass at a time. Wine is a universal language after all!

Suzanne grew up in the vineyards, and after a stint working in the field of art after college, she began her wine career in distribution sales, selling fine wine to restaurants and retailers. She returned to the family business in 1998, where she eventually acquired an increased level of ownership, and now oversees the Groth family wine business on behalf of the second generation. Suzanne is also actively involved in several wine industry-related organizations including the Wine Institute and the Oakville Winegrowers Association.



MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Kelly Weissmann

The wine festival welcomed Kelly Weissmann as its new executive director in June 2019, following Debbie Dent's retirement in July. Kelly is a seasoned leader in event strategy and operations and brings more than 20 years of local event expertise to the wine festival. Kelly looks forward to being part of such a tremendous non-profit event that has an immediate and incredible philanthropic impact in the Cincinnati region. She truly enjoys being part of events that make people proud to call Cincinnati home.



SAVE the DATE

Join us as we
celebrate the
30th year of the
wine festival,
March 12-14, 2020!

Tickets available NOW at winefestival.com

Honorary Chair Dinner
and Winery Dinner Series
Greater Cincinnati Area Restaurants
Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.

Collectors Tasting Room
Duke Energy Convention Center
Friday, March 13, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Wine Education Seminars
Duke Energy Convention Center
Friday, March 13, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Grand Tastings
Duke Energy Convention Center
Friday, March 13, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Charity Auction and Luncheon
Hall of Mirrors, Hilton Netherland Plaza
Saturday, March 14, 9:30 a.m.

Russ Wiles Memorial
Golf Tournament
TPC River's Bend
Monday, June 1, 2020

Learn more and purchase
tickets at winefestival.com
or call 513-723-WINE (9463)



Cincinnati
International
Wine Festival

Cincinnati International Wine Festival Inc.
11159 Kenwood Rd., Suite F
Cincinnati, OH 45242

*Giving back
one glass at a time!*

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U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 644

SPONSORS

We gratefully acknowledge the generous supporters of the 2019 Cincinnati International Wine Festival events.

Presenting Sponsor



2019 EVENT SPONSORS

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Delicato Family Vineyards
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Essentia Water
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FIJI Water
Foley Family Wines

Grey Goose Vodka
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Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza
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Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits
Sophisticated Living
Ste. Michelle
The Hershey Company
The Wine Group
TPC River's Bend
Tramonte & Sons
Treasury Wine Estates
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Velvet Hammer Branding
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Wine Trends, Inc.
Woodhouse Day Spa

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Morton's The Steakhouse
Nicholson's
Orchid's at Palm Court: The Belvedere Room
Postmark
Private Selection Smoked Salmon
Red Feather
Ruth's Chris Steak House
The Capital Grille
The Kroger Chefs
The Mercer OTR
The Metropolitan Club
The President's Room at The Phoenix
Tostado's Grill

For more information or to be added to our mailing list, visit winefestival.com or call 513-723-WINE (9463).