



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Cincinnati International Wine Festival Returns to In-Person Festivities for its Annual Weekend of Wine

*This **ultimate wine weekend** returns to the Queen City with 700 wines from 100 wineries, May 19-21. The festival benefits 30+ local charities and includes winery dinners, grand tastings and more.*

**CINCINNATI – April 20, 2022** – The Cincinnati International Wine Festival returns for an in-person celebration of *giving back one glass at a time* after two years of cancellations and postponements due to the pandemic. Now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year, the wine festival brings in wineries from around the world for a glorious weekend of wine, all benefiting dozens of local charities.

Typically held each March, the long awaited 2022 festival is set for May 19-21 this year, returning to host its full schedule of events for the first time since 2019. The 2020 festival was cancelled the day before it was set to begin, which was at the very beginning of the pandemic.

With something for wine connoisseurs and newcomers alike, this truly is the ultimate weekend of wine. The weekend-long festival consists of gourmet dining, grand tastings, a collector's tasting room, charity auction, luncheon, silent auction and more. One of the largest of its kind in the country, the popular, non-profit festival showcases more than 700 wines from 100 wineries.

The weekend begins with upscale winery dinners on Thursday, May 19, when wine festival guests at prestigious restaurants across the city will simultaneously enjoy the best of fine wines and fine dining. Visiting wine experts from around the world team up local chefs to create incredible multi-course dining experiences with wine pairings. Guests interact with the winery hosts, learn the story of their wines, and savor the harmony of fine wine and impeccable cuisine.

The festival continues May 20 and 21 at the Duke Energy Convention Center with grand tastings held in the main level exhibit hall for the first time ever. This expanded space allows for wider aisles and a larger photo booth area to capture the fun of the memorable weekend.

Grand tasting ticket holders receive unlimited tastes of wine, a keepsake Riedel wine glass, small bites from notable brands, and access to wine industry representatives and experts from around the globe. Grand tasting ticket holders may also purchase exclusive access to a collector's tasting room one hour prior to each grand tasting session, which showcases rare and high-end wines.

A charity luncheon and auction on May 21 features limited-release and rare wines coaxed from the cellars of prominent Cincinnatians, plus the opportunity to win chef-prepared dining opportunities at exclusive Cincinnati homes, glamorous trips, wine cellar tours and more.

This year's honorary chair is Miles MacDonnell, co-owner of Round Pond Estate in the heart of Napa Valley, California, where he heads up viticulture, wine production and wholesale sales.



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“Wine is associated with people getting together. It brings me such joy that the Cincinnati International Wine Festival is back, live and in-person this year,” Miles said. “I’m honored to be representing our industry at this fantastic festival, as we come together at long last. My advice to attendees is to plan beforehand. Try wines from a region you like or stick with a type of wine. Talk to the winemakers and ask them a lot of questions. Wine is supposed to be fun. Have fun.”

Each wine festival ticket purchased directly benefits 30+ local charities with programs dedicated to the arts, education, health and human services. The festival has donated more than \$6.5 million to local charities since its inception thanks to the ongoing support and patronage of the Greater Cincinnati community.

“After a 2-year hiatus, we are so thrilled to be returning for an in-person celebration of wine this May,” said Cincinnati International Wine Festival Executive Director Brad Huberman. “After two years of cancellations and delays, we are ready and eager to bring back this beloved tradition to our wine loving community. The festival may look a little different this year as we emerge from the pandemic’s challenges, but I assure you it is going to be a fun and wonderful weekend of wine, all in support of local charities. I hope you’ll join us.”

Multiple ticketing price points for the weekend’s events are available. View the full schedule, learn more and buy tickets at [winefestival.com](http://winefestival.com).

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### **About the Cincinnati International Wine Festival**

The Cincinnati International Wine Festival is a Cincinnati-based 501(c)(3) organization established to raise funds for local charities through the celebration of the wine industry. It features 700 wines from 100 wineries across the globe, all for a great cause. The festival benefits 30+ Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky arts, education, and health and human services charities, and has raised more than \$6.5 million since 1991. Learn more at [winefestival.com](http://winefestival.com).