



For Immediate Release

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17th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS SET FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2003 Six Sonoma Valley Wineries To Light Up the Holidays In A Culinary and Wine Tasting Extravaganza

The glittering holiday season opener in the Sonoma Valley is the annual "Festival of Lights" sponsored by the Star of the Valley Catholic Church in Oakmont plus six Kenwood wineries - and this year the winter wonderland of dazzling displays will piggy-back for one night only with the popular Holiday Open House over the long Thanksgiving weekend.

Sparkling decorations will light up the sky, the better to see the fantastic culinary creations paired with special wine tastings at Blackstone, Chateau St. Jean, Landmark, Ledson, St. Francis and Stone Creek wineries - accompanied by festive entertainment and live music rounding out the bill for this much-anticipated evening.

The Festival of Lights will be taking place a week earlier than usual to coincide with the popular Holiday Open House - a two-day wine and food pairing event sponsored by Kenwood and Glen Ellen member wineries of the Heart of Sonoma Valley Association (HOSVA) - on Friday, November 28 and Saturday the 29th. Hours are 11am-4:30pm each day. The Festival of Lights takes place Saturday evening from 6pm to 9pm. Both events benefit local charities and information can be found on the web at www.heartofsonomavalley.com.

Admission to the Festival of Lights is \$25.00 and includes a souvenir wine glass. Designated drivers \$15.00. Shuttle bus service will not be provided to the general public this year, but those interested in group transportation may access the Heart of Sonoma Wineries web site or call the Church directly for recommendations for transportation providers. Tickets are available by pre-sale only and are limited. Reservations and advance ticket purchase may be obtained by calling: 1.800.423.4766 or 707. 539.6262 or by contacting the participating wineries directly.

Since 1986, this event has been a critical fundraiser for the needy in Sonoma Valley. The Festival of Lights is the cornerstone event for the success of the **Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program** non-profit organization that provides broad-based assistance for over 350 families in the area. The joint effort by Star of the Valley Catholic Church and participating Kenwood winery members of the Heart of Sonoma Valley Association has

provided assistance and emergency aid throughout the year from funds raised during this event.

This unique evening captures the feelings of elegance and the closeness of family with the backdrop of a pastoral wine region during the most anticipated season. With the warm glow of each unique winery come the sounds of Victorian chorale voices and hand bells ringing.

What : 17th Annual Festival of Lights

Where : Blackstone, Chateau St. Jean, Landmark, Ledson, St. Francis and Stone Creek wineries located in the town of Kenwood, Sonoma County, California

When : 6pm to 9pm

Tickets: Available by pre-sale only at Star of the Valley Church and participating wineries. For information and reservations contact: 1-800-543-7713.

Directions and Details: www.heartofsonomavalley.com