

KORBEL CALIFORNIA CHAMPAGNE PREVIEW

The weekend will kick off Friday night with a champagne preview of the raffle and silent auction items at the Gualala Arts Center from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. featuring Korbel California champagnes, including their Blanc de Noirs that was named Best of Class and Sparkling Sweepstakes Winner at the 2013 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. Gualala's own Cremeria Pazzo Marco is creating a unique gelato designed to pair with the Korbel California champagne.

You will be able to browse at leisure and without the crowds the wide selection of wine, gift certificates and other wine-related items available in the silent auction. Many local businesses have donated premium auction lots such as luxurious lodging packages, golf, kayak tours and other great items. You will also be able to preview our showcase raffle prizes. To see the list of raffle prizes for this event, see page 6 of this issue of *Sketches*.

While enjoying your champagne and gelato, Rolf Thorson, a Court of Master Sommeliers Level 2 Certified Sommelier and the wine & spirits buyer for the Surf Market, will give a brief overview of how to effectively taste and thus better appreciate the wines being poured the following afternoon at the Wine Tasting & Auction. Rolf will also share some of his insights, anecdotes and special attributes of the wines being offered in the auction lots.

WINE TASTING & AUCTION

Following the self-guided Architectural Tour you can use your tour ticket as entry to the Wine Tasting & Auction at the Gualala Arts Center on Saturday, May 11 from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. If you did not take the tour, you can still attend the Wine Tasting & Auction by purchasing a separate ticket for the event.

The elegance of the Gualala Arts Center has been the location for the wine tasting and auction since 1999. Last year Soroptimist International Mendocino-Sonoma Coast and Gualala Arts partnered to elevate the tasting and auction to a whole new level, making it the premier wine event on the North Coast.

You will enjoy a wide variety of outstanding wines being poured by 25 premium Northern California wineries, accompanied by a delicious menu of thoughtfully paired food donated by local businesses and carefully selected to complement the wines.

Top off your day by making winning bids on auction lots that will help enhance your wine collection, or give you a new adventure to which you can look forward.

Ticket donations support Soroptimist International of Mendocino-Sonoma Coast and Gualala Arts' efforts to promote both women's programs and public participation in the arts. Tickets for the Architectural Tour and Tasting may be purchased for \$55 in advance from Brown Paper Tickets or by visiting www.simsc.org. After May 1 tickets can be purchased by cash or check at the Gualala Country Inn, 47975 Center Street, Gualala, CA 95445 (707-884-4343). Tickets purchased on the day of the tour are \$60 and will be available in front of the Stewarts Point Store and at the Gualala Arts Center.

This year we are also offering a Wine Tasting & Auction-only ticket (no Architectural Tour) for \$20 advance, \$5 more day of event, available at Gualala Arts Center and the Dolphin Gallery. For more information call Gualala Arts at 707-884-1138 or visit GualalaArts.org or www.simsc.org.



"Red Cypress" - oil by Sandy Ostrau