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THE FESTIVAL AT SANDPOINT'S ANNUAL WINE TASTING, DINNER AND AUCTION IS SET FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 28th

April 19, 2006, Sandpoint, Idaho... The Festival at Sandpoint's *Annual Wine Tasting, Dinner & Auction* fundraiser will take place Friday, April 28th at 5:30pm at the Bonner County Fairgrounds featuring premier wine tasting, gourmet dinner catered by the Floating Restaurant, and hundreds of silent and live auction items. Proceeds will benefit the non-profit music festival, assisting in covering the significant cost of presenting its summer concert series at reasonable prices to the residents and visitors of North Idaho. The Festival's 24th annual season is set for August 3-13, 2006.

This annual fundraising event is the most important benefit for The Festival with a goal of raising at least \$30,000. The wine tasting portion of the event is sponsored by Northwest Select, fine wine division of Odom Northwest Beverage, featuring unlimited tasting of their finest wines. The event takes place at the Bonner County Fairgrounds.

"We have a little more room this year," said Festival Executive Director Dyno Wahl. "We still expect to sell out as we have for the past few years, so it is important for individuals to get their tickets and for businesses to reserve their tables as soon as possible."

The auction promises to be tantalizing with shopping sprees from Coldwater Creek and Eve's Leaves; golfing at the Elks, Coeur d'Alene Resort, StoneRidge and Avondale on Hayden; a Schweitzer season ski pass and parking pass; one-of-a-kind fine jewelry and art; rare Festival memorabilia; some very valuable bottles of wine; dinners at some of Sandpoint's finest restaurants; and a number of travel packages including weekend getaways to Canada, a trip to Seattle for a Seahawk football game with Super Bowl XL memorabilia, and a dream vacation to the Big Island of Hawaii.

"We are grateful that so many businesses and individuals in town are supporting the Festival by donating this incredible array of auction items," said Wahl.

The evening begins at 5:30pm with a wine tasting featuring an impressive list of wineries including Barefoot Cellars, Bonterra, Cambria, Chateau Ste Michelle, Columbia Crest, Clay Station, Cordorniu, Domaine Napa, Dry Lands, Estancia, 5 Rivers, Ferrari Carano, Forestville Reserve, Franciscan, Gallo of Sonoma, Gold Digger, Gnarly Head, Jack London, JFJ, Huck Cellars, Kendall Jackson, Kenwood Sonoma, Kiona, King Estates, Kobrand, Lindemans, Matanzas Creek, Mendocino, Monterra, Okanogan Estates, Penfolds, Napa Ridge, Pepper Bridge, Preston, Red Diamond, Rex Hill, Ridgeline, Robert Mondavi, Sawtooth, Simi, Snoqualmie, Thomas Highland, Veramonte, and Zefina. Also, back by popular demand, there will be a brew tasting section with a selection of microbrew beers.

While sipping fine wine from 5:30-7:00pm, guests will be able to browse a multitude of tables overflowing with silent auction items. At 7:00pm, dinner will be served, featuring chicken breast stuffed with fontina cheese, roasted garlic and prosciutto with a shrimp scampi sauce, scalloped style au gratin potatoes, orange glazed baby carrots, and a black and white mocha mousse torte dessert. Complimentary Pend d'Oreille wines will be served with dinner.

At 8:00pm, Auctioneer Chuck Whitman will have the crowd vying for the evening's most exciting items during the live auction. The evening will be enhanced by the music of Ellipsis.

As part of the Festival's Annual Wine Tasting Dinner & Auction, Timber Stand Gallery is offering a special selection of over fine paintings for silent auction through April 27th with a portion of the proceeds going to support The Festival at Sandpoint. Bids may be placed at Timber Stand Gallery, located at 334 N. First Avenue, on the Coldwater Creek Bridge. Winning bids will be announced at the event on Friday night, April 28th.

Tickets for Friday night's event are \$60.00 per person (plus tax) and include unlimited wine tasting, dinner and a complimentary Festival at Sandpoint wine glass. Reserved tables are available for groups. Call the Festival office at (208) 265-4554, or come by the Old Powerhouse, suite 207. You can also order your tickets for all festival events online at www.FestivalAtSandpoint.com.