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Gorge Wine Celebration to Benefit Hospice of the Gorge Date Announced
Fifth Annual Event to be held August 16, 2008

May 20, 2008 - Hood River, Oregon – The Gorge Wine Celebration is back for its fifth year and its second year in a successful partnership with Hospice of the Gorge. The date for the gala event is Saturday, August 16th and it will be held at Divots (Indian Creek Golf Course, 3605 Brookside Drive) in Hood River, Oregon.

“Our 2007 event was the most successful to date, raising over \$10,000 for Hospice of the Gorge,” states Columbia Gorge Winegrowers Association coordinator Autumn Woods. “Not only were we able to promote the best wines of our region, we were also able to help our community through the work of Hospice of the Gorge, the oldest and largest non-profit hospice in our region.”

Hospice of The Gorge was chosen as the beneficiary for the event because of their long-term contributions to the Gorge and their community-minded spirit. Plus, their service area overlaps with that of the Columbia Gorge Appellation grape- growing region. “There’s no other organization in the Mid Columbia region that has done so much for so many people ... and who have put caring for people above everything else,” says Woods.

Hospice of The Gorge pioneered hospice care in the early ‘80s, and has been helping people with end-of-life needs and related challenges ever since. It started out as a grass roots, all-volunteer organization, and today serves eight Mid Columbia counties in both Oregon and Washington.

Gretchen Hagen, Executive Director for Hospice of The Gorge, says that community partnerships are essential to their ability to care for patients. “In all the years of our existence, we have never denied care to anyone due to financial reasons. We’ve been able to do this only because we’ve had terrific support from friends in the communities we serve ... friends like the Columbia Gorge Wine Growers Association. We are sincerely grateful for their support.”

In that spirit, the Gorge Wine Celebration is seeking sponsors for the 2008 event. "Our goal is to maximize the return for Hospice by asking the community to help underwrite the costs," explains Woods. "It's a great way for a business to show their support for Hospice of the Gorge while also having a fun and festive evening." Sponsorship packages are available at various levels, starting with "New Release" table sponsorships for \$500 going up to "Barrel" (title) Sponsorship at \$3500.

Also new in 2008, guests will be able to purchase a table for the event. Tables of 8 will be available for \$500, guaranteeing a great seat for all of the action. Tickets for the event this year will be \$50 and will include wine tasting and a delicious hors d'oeuvres menu designed by Divot's chef Xani Orton to pair with wine.

For more information about purchasing tickets or sponsorship packages, please contact Autumn Woods with the Columbia Gorge Winegrowers, 866.413.WINE (9463) or Susan Frost at Hospice of The Gorge, 541-387-6449. Additional information is also available at www.columbiagorgewine.com.