

# 2023 Gloucester Wine Festival

A Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce  
Festival at Brent and Becky's Bulbs

[www.GloucesterVAWineFestival.com](http://www.GloucesterVAWineFestival.com)

**GLOUCESTER**  
wine festival

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## 2023 Gloucester Wine Festival extended to two days

The 2023 Gloucester Wine Festival is the Gloucester Chamber of Commerce's premier annual event. This year, the festival has been extended to two days—11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday at Brent and Becky's Bulbs.

More than 5,000 attendees from Gloucester, the surrounding communities and the region are expected to attend. Parking for the event is at Ware Academy, where visitors will be taken by shuttle bus to Brent and Becky's. Those attending are asked to bring ID. Coolers are not allowed.

On Saturday, entertainment will be provided by The Deloreans (from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.), with Good Shot Judy taking the stage from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. (See related story.)

Festival goers will be able to sample nine wineries: Zoll Vineyards, Rebec Vineyards, Mattaponi Winery, Saudé Creek Vineyards, Jolene Family Winery, General's Ridge Vineyard, Vintner's Cellar Winery of Yorktown, Notaviva Farm Brewery & Winery and Castle Glen Winery, as well as a cidery (Cobler Mountain Cellars), the Gloucester Brewing Co., and the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce beer tent.

Food will be available to purchase from On the Flip Side, Chesapeake Concessions, Island Time Delights, Juan's Mexican Café and Cantina, Nomads Food Truck, Kue's Q, Creekside, Short Lane Ice Cream, and T&T Tasty Travels.

Thirty-one retail vendors will be setting up shop throughout the festival grounds: All About the Beverage, Bent Out of Shape Silvery, Sandy's Candies, Origami Owl, Color Street Nails, Jeter Giles, The GianDonato Farmette, Paper Pie, Boho Blyss, L\*inked (MS Wax & PMU), Reel Beachy, Padow's Hams, Reign Joy, NeHi Nome

Creations, Charmed by Thirteen, Bloody's by Buzz, Moonstruck Creations, Goodman's Interiors & Antiques, Rivah Custom Creations, Mr. Rogers Windows and Doors, The Barn on Bennetts Creek, T-Mobile, Bathrooms Direct of Virginia, Whitley's Peanut Factory, KayJae Inc., Those Were the Days, Northern Neck Popcorn Bag, Low Tide & Co., River Organics, Coral Yacht Brokerage, and Miller's Services. In addition, Passante's Home Food Service, Williamsburg Right To Carry, and Gloucester County Parks, Recreation & Tourism will have tables set up. A complete map of vendor locations is available in the center spread of this section.

The Gloucester Wine Festival couldn't happen without the support of generous donors. Sponsors this year include the following:

\$5,000 That's Entertainment sponsors Chesapeake Bank and E.T. Gresham Company; \$3,500 Virginia Meritage sponsor Brent and Becky's Bulbs; \$2,000 Sommeliers sponsor Gloucester Refuse; \$1,500 Vintner's Blend sponsors Langley Federal Credit Union, WXGM Radio, Miller's Services, and Middle Peninsula Golf Carts; \$750 Golden Riesling sponsor Freedom Street Partners; \$500 Silver Chardonnay sponsors Bay Port Credit Union, Trudy's Portable Toilets and Teagle Insurance Agency; \$250 Bronze Bouquet sponsors American Retirement Homes, The Closing Shop, LLC, Tailored Smoke Cigar Lounge, Cut It Up Lawn Care and Tree Service, W. Kent Early Accounting and Tax Service, W.T. Fary Bros. Building Materials, and Bill Hudgins GMC.

Village Cleaners is the event's Water Sponsor and Newton's Bus Service is the Transportation Sponsor.

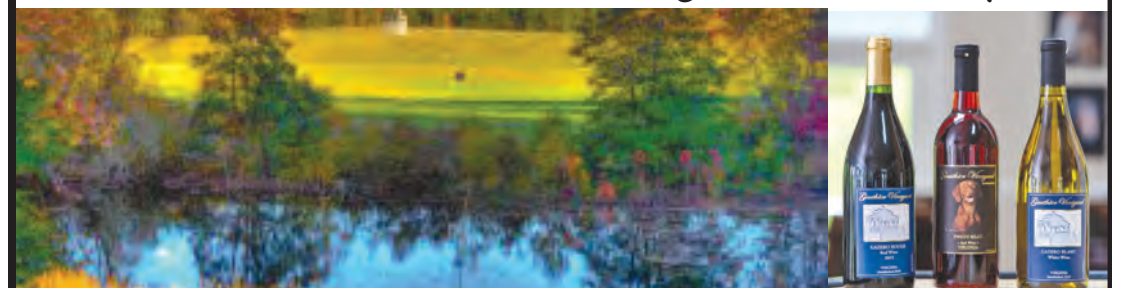
For more information about this weekend's event, visit [gloucestervawinefestival.com](http://gloucestervawinefestival.com).



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# This year's wine festival features nine wineries, cidery and Gloucester Brewing Co.

This weekend's Gloucester Wine Festival will feature nine wineries, along with a cidery, the Gloucester Brewing Co. and the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce beer tent. Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester is the site of festivities.

Among those taking part are the following.

## Zoll Vineyards

Gloucester's first winery, Zoll Vineyards is located on Route 198 at Dutton. The 16.5-acre winery estate produces award-winning wines paired with handmade chocolates. Zoll Vineyards planted roots in Dutton in 2018 with several acres of grapes, blackberries, and farm to table gardens. Zoll Vineyards is a chef-owned winery that focuses on food and beverage pairings in our tasting room. Frank Zoll, owner, pastry chef, and vintner emeritus, has created award-winning wines since 2009. The winery estate near the Gloucester-Mathews county line offers RV parking through Harvest Hosts.

Visitors are invited to toast in their tasting room or large outdoor dog-friendly patio. Tasting room menu and patio menu are available until 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, where Executive Chef John Feminella will feed you like family.

## Rebec Vineyards

Rebec Vineyards is a 70-acre estate in Amherst County offering beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The family home, "Mountain View," is listed both on the National Register of Historic Places and as a Virginia Landmark.

In 1980, founder Richard Hanson planted the eight acres of noble vitis vinifera grapes. By 1987, the wine produced began selling under the Rebec label. Now, a quarter of a century later, 16 wines were marketed via winery visits, festivals and local restaurants and retail establishments.

They named the vineyard after a medieval stringed instrument, the rebec. A fore-



Zoll Vineyards, a farm-to-table winery located in Dutton, will be taking part in Saturday's Gloucester Wine Festival.

runner of the modern violin, world craftsmanship in wine-making. The winery was designed

and built by Hanson and his son-in-law, Mark Magruder. The building features rich weathered chestnut siding and exposed beams from a 200-year-old tobacco barn.

In addition to producing several award-winning wines and being a pioneer in the Virginia wine industry, Rebec is best known for its annual Virginia Wine & Garlic Festival. The festival began in 1991, and has grown into Virginia's largest agricultural festival. Held each year in October, visitors from across the nation visit the vineyard for a "stinkin' good time," according to its website.

## Mattaponi Winery

Mattaponi Winery is a family-owned winery in the heart of Spotsylvania County, with

a passion for making a variety of national and international award-winning wines.

The Evans family has lived on their land for over 100 years, which is surrounded by four rivers: the Mat, Ta, Po and Ni. These rivers begin coming together in Spotsylvania County, and then Caroline County to make up the Mattaponi River as it flows 103 miles towards the York River.

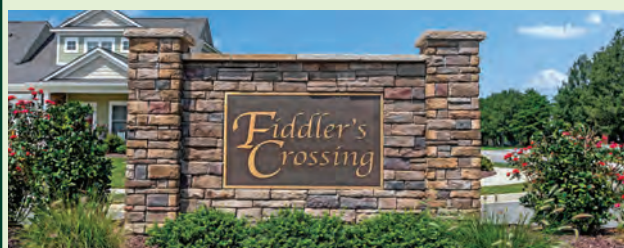
Winemakers Michael Evans and Janette Evans used to love fishing smallmouth bass and catfish daily on the riverbanks. This love is what brought the two together with a vision. Their passion for fishing the Mattaponi River was as strong as their passion for making wine, so they de-

SEE WINERIES, PAGE 4C

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## WINERIES: *Plenty to choose from at this year's Gloucester Wine Festival*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3C)

cided to bring both together, and named their winery after the river they loved so much.

These Mattaponi winemakers have made wine for over 30 years and naming it after the river dear to their hearts. They added an amazing filtration system that filters the water 11 times making it 99 percent pure to make their wine today.

### Saudé Creek Vineyards

Sitting on 100 acres, Saudé Creek Vineyards is situated high on a hillside overlooking the Pamunkey River in New Kent County. Breathtaking views and a rich history welcome guests as they drive up a scenic winding drive, and the rolling landscape of the vine-

yards is accentuated by the grandeur of the winery and tasting room. Saudé Creek is a favorite for both locals and travelers alike with live music and fantastic food vendors each weekend. Visitors are invited to sit back and relax on our many patios and decks overlooking treetops and grapevines, while sipping our award-winning wines with friends and family.

Food by The Scottish Pig is available every Friday night, Saturday and Sunday.

Saudé Creek Vineyards first started out as Saudé Creek Farms, a small business that produced cider from apples harvested at Hill Pleasant Farms in Norge. There was a small tasting room at Hill



Pleasant Farms where the cider was sold until the idea formed to make wine. Saudé Creek was then moved to where it is now in New Kent County, located on one of the highest points in the area with views overlooking the Pamunkey River. The business's first production resulted in 150 cases of an apple wine named Saudé Creek White.

Jason Knight, owner and winemaker, continued to grow the business from there. He planted apple trees and

grape vines on the property, and now three acres boast beautiful apple trees and 20 acres are currently under vine. The business was renamed Saudé Creek Vineyards, and the winery opened its doors to the public in July 2011.

The current site also has its own rich history, once hosting Frank's Tavern. This tavern was a colonial inn and public house for wayfarers riding between points north

and west of the colonial capital of Williamsburg. George Washington and the French General Rochambeau, among other patriots and notables of the time, reputedly slaked their thirsts here. Washington also had more than one reason to visit New Kent. His future wife, Martha Dandridge Custis, lived only seven miles from where the winery now sits.

SEE WINERIES, PAGE 5C

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## WINERIES: Nine wineries, cidery and Gloucester Brewing Co. to take part in this year's festival

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4C)

Saudé Creek Vineyards has expanded since first opening its doors. The vineyard now grows more than six grape varieties with future plans to increase. Seating has expanded over the years as well. Saudé Creek has many decks, patios, fire pits, and a wrap-around porch, which invite guests to sit back and relax with a glass of wine. With live music from local musicians every weekend year-round, the winery has become a favorite of both travelers and locals.

### Jolene Family Winery

Siblings Sandy Lewis, Brian Mikelaite and Cindy Mikelaite grew up on the property which was passed onto

them by their parents, Joseph and Helene Mikelaite. "We combined their first names in memory of them and to honor their love for us," according to the winery's website.

The farm winery is located in New Kent County, right off Pocahontas Trail. It is beautifully placed overlooking Tom Brooks Lake on one side and the vineyard on the other.

The mission at Jolene Family Winery is to provide customers with delicious, award-winning, handcrafted wines and to create an experience that leaves everyone feeling like they are family.

In 1987, Joseph Mikelaite built and opened Brianwood Nurseries Garden Center

which has been renovated into the winery's new tasting room. This special piece of land has been in the Mikelaite family dating to the late 1960s.

Jolene Family Winery is open year-round Thursday through Monday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and Fridays 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Visit its online calendar for private event and holiday closings. Indoor and outdoor seating is available at first-come, first-served but they always encourage visitors to bring their own blankets/chairs to enjoy The Pines in case seating is at capacity upon arrival. This fully shaded lawn is located right on the water with incredible views



and a breeze off the water.  
**General's Ridge Vineyard**  
Located on the Northern

Neck in the Westmoreland County community of Hague, General's Ridge Vineyard is the perfect retreat for a quiet weekend getaway and tasting its many award-winning wines.

When owner Rick Phillips was a young boy during World War II, he lived in the wine country of Northern California. The rolling hills filled with grapevines made a lasting impression. Then, for 35 years as a Marine Corps flyer, he lived all over the world, retiring at the rank of major general. Around the start of the millennium, Phillips and his wife Linda dis-

SEE WINERIES, PAGE 6C



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## WINERIES: Gloucester Wine Festival features some of the area's best wineries

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5C)

covered nestled in the quaint countryside of Virginia's historic Westmoreland County, in the heart of the Northern Neck, almost 100 acres of farmland and an old run-down farmhouse. They had a vision of a beautiful vineyard. They had a dream.

They met while Rick was in a leadership slot in Dahlgren. Linda was a music teacher. Rick's years of flying kept them nomadic through the years but finally came to settle in Alexandria, as well as in the community of Stratford Harbour in Montross. They began to school themselves on planting, cultivating and harvesting grapes. Their passion to explore the science, practice and study of vineyard production has turned General's Ridge Vineyard & Winery into more than just wagonloads of grapes.

But, they had their work cut out for them. Grapevine by grapevine, the vineyard grew. It was not unusual to see the couple working alongside the vineyard workers, especially at harvest time.

The old farmhouse, originally built in the mid-1800s, was quite a challenge. Board by board, the renovation began and up from the dust came the charming Manor House—a step back in time.

Peering over the vineyard you will find a newly constructed two-bedroom cottage called Vineyard Views. More modern than the Manor House, it too has a charm of its own.

The Carriage House emerged and is just waiting for the next wedding reception or off-site business meeting to take place.

Construction finished on the Somewhere in Time tasting room. A blend of yesterday motif—antiques, art, a bar made from wine barrels and vintage doors—you can experience and enjoy their many award-winning wines. And then came a very large tasting room, a wine club room, and a patio and elevated deck.

### Vintner's Cellar Winery

Vintner's Cellar Winery of Yorktown is an urban (sub-urban?) winery in Yorktown. Jennifer and Glen Parks



Vintner's Cellar Yorktown remains Yorktown's only winery.

started the winery in 2006 as a place where the local community could come in to learn about winemaking and make custom wines.

Today, Vintner's Cellar Yorktown remains Yorktown's only winery. The winery is now under the ownership of Brandon and Janet Johnson who have maintained the Vintner's Yorktown tradition of a family-owned winery.

Vintner's Cellar Winery of Yorktown has a storefront tasting room and production space where they handcraft upwards of 40 wine varietals. They specialize in small batch fruit fusion wines and offer a casual tasting environment.

### Notaviva

Notaviva Farm Brewery & Winery is one of the highest rated farm winery and brewery combinations in Northern

Virginia. Founded as Notaviva Vineyards in 2008, and expanded to include Notaviva Brewing in 2019, they are the world's most original brewery and winery brand. Each of its beverages is paired with a musical genre or lyrical inspiration. Notaviva's goal is to capture the feelings that music can create and put it in their beers, wines, ciders and hard seltzers.

Notaviva was conceived on Sept. 28, 2002 by the husband-and-wife team of Stephen and Shannon Mackey. The Mac keys brought together by their love of music, which prompted early careers in professional audio and emerging media technologies.

Stephen and Shannon currently reside on the farm with their three boys, Tristan, Duncan and Ronan, their three dogs, "Wolfie," "Oreo" and "Jojo," cat "Merida," as well as 14 ducks and 12 chickens. In addition to their farming pursuits, they are avid gardeners and enjoy providing homegrown meals for the table from their land. Active in the community, they are

involved in their sons' Boy Scout troop, volunteer for sports teams as coaches and board members, and contribute their talents to several nonprofit organizations.

They are located on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge mountains near the Appalachian Trail in western Loudoun County, just a short drive from the county seat of Leesburg. Whether you're looking for beer at a winery, or wine at a brewery, or cider and hard seltzer, they have everything you're looking for, in addition to the most hospitable staff on the Loudoun Heights Tourism Trail.

### Castle Glen Winery

Only eight minutes from the Kings Dominion theme park in Doswell, at Castle Glen Winery, they've always believed that wine should be an adventure. Castle Glen's adventure began a quarter-century ago, when their favorite pastime soon became a weekly obsession. The owners would spend weeks tasting only Merlot from all over

SEE WINERIES, PAGE 7C

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The interior of the Gloucester Brewing Co., located on Main Street.

## WINERIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6C)

the world. The next week, they would taste the various personalities of Cabernet Sauvignon. "Our passion in creating the finest wines demands only the best in quality," the winery website states.

The first vines were planted in 2009 and Castle Glen began selling wine in 2015. Castle Glen perfected various red and white wine varieties and has specialty wines, as well.

Castle Glen Winery & Estates overlooks some of the most beautiful scenery in Virginia. Visit the Wine Tasting Barn, enjoy a lunch or fun outing with your friends with Boar's Head Meats & Cheeses. The winery is family and dog friendly.

### Gloucester Brewing Co.

Located on Main Street in Gloucester, Gloucester Brewing Co. started in 1991 when Myron Ware received his first mail-order brew-kit and started developing a taste for not-light beer. After connecting with GBC originator, Mike Brewer, they moved the now blossoming operation to Mike's garage. With a background in mechanical engineering, he has always been passionate about the science of beer and it wasn't long before they had perfected the taste of GBC's staples: Brown ale, IPA, Irish Red, Cream ale, and medal-winning Rye ale. Myron likes to make beer and Mike—and Myron—like to drink it.

"Bringing people together is what we're all about and here at GBC you can always count on three things: a friendly environment, outstanding service and, of course, quality

beers," the brewery's website states. "So come check us out down on Main Street."

### Cobbler Mountain Cellars

Before Cobbler Mountain was a cidery, it was a special place to Jeff and Laura McCarthy Louden. Laura's father had bought the mountain in 1959 with the dream of one day making it a family farm.

The award-winning cidery is located at 5909 Long Fall Lane in Delaplane, an unincorporated community in northern Fauquier County, about 50 miles west of Washington, D.C.

While on a visit to the land nearly 50 years later, Jeff and Laura realized that his dream had become their dream, too. Not only was it the place they wanted to raise their family, it seemed that Jeff's long-held interest in cidermaking had finally found its home, as well.

They opened Cobbler Mountain Cidery out of their basement in 2011 with a couple of ciders and a few wines. By 2015, the growing success of their ciders led to their focus on them exclusively. Now, Cobbler Mountain has over two dozen handcrafted, traditionally-fermented, small-batch ciders on tap in their tasting room, and a selection of hard seltzers, hard lemonades and sangrias to go with them.

As their award-winning cidery continues to grow, the Loudens' son and daughter have also joined the business, making it just the sort of family operation their grandfather had hoped for.



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Vendor list



Wine Classes

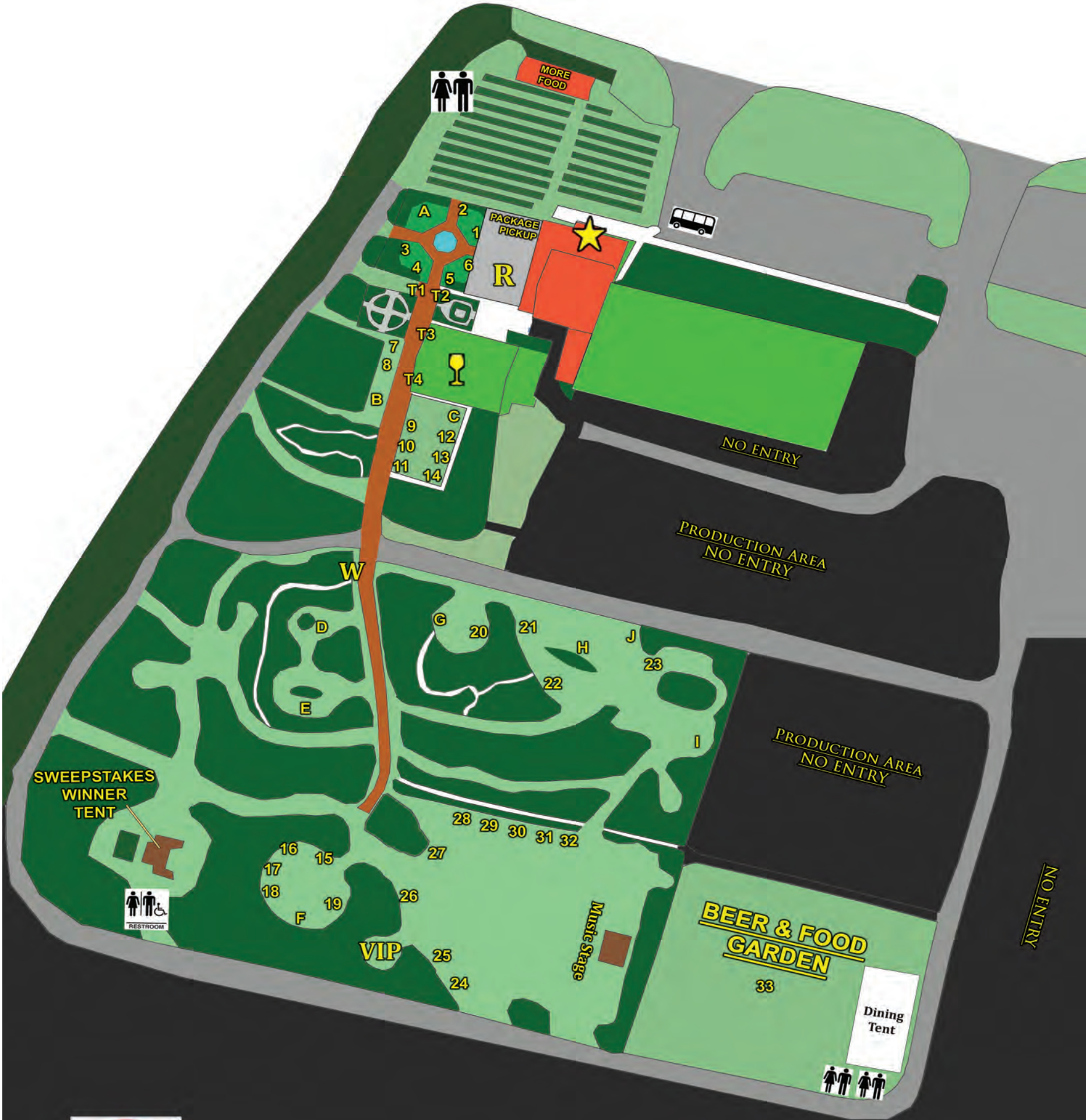
- J Castle Glen
- B Cobbler Mountain
- G General Ridge Vineyard
- E Jolene Family Winery
- I Mattaponi
- F Notaviva Farm Brewery & Winery
- H Rebec
- D Saudè Creek Vineyards
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- 4 Millers
- 20 Miranda Smith - Reign Joy Co
- 5 Moonstruck Soap
- 29 Mr Rogers Windows
- 21 NeHi Creations
- 1 Northern Neck Popcorn Bag
- 17 Origami Owl

- 14 Paper Pie - Amanda Rose
- 15 Phyliss Taylor - Color Street Nails
- 28 Reel Beachy LLC - Gabriela Patterson
- 25 Rivah Custom Creations
- 2 River Organics
- 13 Sandy's Candies
- 16 Stephanie Manheim - Padow's Hams Co
- 26 T-MOBILE
- 27 The Barn on Bennetts Creek
- 8 The GianDonato Farmette
- 23 Those Were the Days
- 3 Whitley Peanut Factory
- VIP Margie Wiley- Freedom Street Partners
- W Village Cleaners sponsor tent
- T1 Gloucester County Parks, Recreation and Tourism
- T2 Fairfield Foundation
- T3 Passanante's Home Food Service
- T4 Williamsburg Right To Carry - George Gibbs
- food area Bright Light Theory LLC/Nomads
- food area Chamber Beer Tent
- food area Chesapeake Concessions
- food area Coral Yacht Brokerage
- food area Creekside Café
- food area Gloucester Brewing Company
- food area Island Time Delights
- Entrance
- food area Juan's Mexican Café
- food area Kue's Q LLC
- food area On The Flip Side
- food area Short Lane Ice Cream
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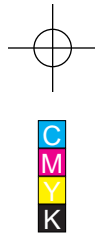


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**The Bulb Shoppe and Gardens at Brent and Becky's  
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The Deloreans, who bill themselves as the ultimate '80s tribute band, will perform on Saturday at the festival. Members are, from left, Tommy Hagar, Jennifer "Parker" Gammill, Cary "G Roth" Greco, Melanie Delorean, Rianna Delorean, Jess McFly and Missy Delorean.

# Deloreans, Good Shot Judy sure to keep everybody dancing

While the Gloucester Wine Festival features fine Virginia wines, cider, beer and lots of goodies to eat, a big draw this weekend will be the two headline musical acts.

If you love music from the 1980s, then Saturday will be the day to go to catch the ultimate '80s tribute band, The Deloreans. If swing is more your thing, then plan on coming out Sunday to hear the big band sound of Good Shot Judy.

The Deloreans are scheduled to play from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, with Good Shot Judy taking the stage from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

**The Deloreans**  
The Deloreans are a sea-

soned showband comprised of six distinct vocalists that cover the most memorable artists and nostalgic songs of the '80s. Each band member is featured throughout the show, making this band's most notable attribute its unmatched variety.

The Deloreans are known for their dynamic '80s costumes, unstoppable energy, and their ability to bring down the house every time.

From small intimate weddings to city events drawing tens of thousands, the Deloreans have performed all over the East Coast since 2007. With a playlist of songs topping 10 hours, the Delo-

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 11C

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## MUSIC: Deloreans, Good Shot Judy to entertain festival crowds

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10C)

reans can tailor their show to a variety of settings and meet the needs of any crowd. No matter the size or venue, the Deloreans always leaves the crowd chanting, "one more song!"

The Deloreans' members are professional, seasoned performers. Collectively, they have performed in over six countries, for several heads of state, and for three sitting U.S. presidents. With over 2,000 shows under their belt, their talent is finely tuned and their show is time-proven.

The Deloreans carries its own state-of-the-art sound and lighting production and also travels with its own professional sound and lighting engineers.

"We are very excited to be a part of the Gloucester Wine Festival this year," Melanie Delorean said.

Other band members include Jess McFly, Missy Delorean, Tommy Hagar, Cary "G Roth" Greco, Rianna Delorean and Jennifer "Parker" Gammill.

### Good Shot Judy

It's hard to nail an exact moment when Good Shot Judy, the Virginia-based, high-octane swing band, came to life.

It could have been when brothers Brett and Jeff Cahoon stepped away from the success they'd achieved with their punk band Ten Years from Now and chose instead to see what they could do with

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 12C

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Brett Cahoon (center, holding the mic) is the bandleader for Good Shot Judy, a Virginia-based, high-octane swing band. The group also includes Jeff Cahoon, Brandon Musko, Chelsea Champ, Carl Lundgren, Paul Todd, Kasey Watkins, Scott Helwig, Charlie Frise, Alex "Milkshake" Parker, Chris Ward and Mark Oates.

**MUSIC:** *Two great acts*

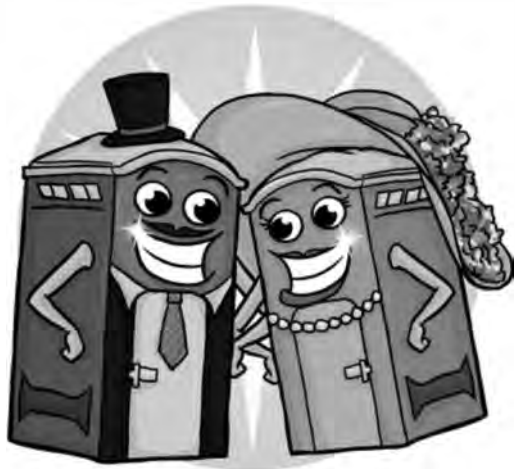
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11C)  
the old-time jazz standards they'd admired for so long. The Brothers Cahoon formed a small combo, and—wouldn't you know it—plenty of others felt the same groove.

Or maybe it was when an inside joke made a name for

itself. Their mother, Judy Cahoon, is an avid golfer, and just as common as pars and birdies were three words of encouragement shouted by a supportive friend, who pumped a fist and hollered

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 13C

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# Toast the year's standout vintage during Virginia Wine Month

October is Virginia Wine Month, and winemakers are predicting a memorable vintage worthy of celebration.

Now in its 35th year, Virginia Wine Month honors the commonwealth's ever-evolving wine sector. With about

300 wineries and 4,000 acres of grapes grown in the state, the economic impact of Virginia wine was estimated at \$1.73 billion in 2019—a 27 percent increase from 2015, according to the Virginia Wine Board.

Wine enthusiasts should have a bountiful selection to

celebrate with this year, according to Mizuho Nita, grape pathology specialist for Virginia Tech's School of Plant and Environmental Sciences.

With little rain and "extremely dry conditions" across the state, Nita said, most vineyards are not ex-

periencing significant losses from rain-driven diseases like downy mildew.

"People are harvesting early cultivars right now quite a bit, especially in Northern Virginia. Their harvest start-

SEE VIRGINIA WINE MONTH, PAGE 14C

## MUSIC: Deloreans, Good Shot Judy

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12C)

across the fairway every time she took a swing: "Good shot, Judy!" It became a funny family warble among the Cahoons—and as it turns out, a solid band name, too.

Or perhaps that moment of creation arrived when Good Shot Judy freed their potential energy. Keen to give the classic melodies the respect and attention—as well as the power—that it deserved, the Cahoons filled out Good Shot Judy with a full complement of horns, percussion and vocals. And magic happened: an ensemble that was bigger than the sum of its parts.

In a sense, Good Shot Judy was already in the stars long ago, during those formative decades from the 1930s on, when small jazz combos, big brass bands and the crooners who sang on top of them were forging an enduring style and repertoire that would be written into the DNA of American music.

But really, all these had a hand in making Good Shot Judy what is today: a big amp jazz band that sets stages

afire nationwide.

Audiences may never consider that the Good Shot Judy show they're seeing has been an evolution. They're too captivated by the sound and spectacle of music that reaches through the time. They're too caught up in performance that has one foot dancing in the past and one in the here and now.

A Good Shot Judy show offers all those tunes you know just from growing up in America—songs you can at least hum along to, if you don't outright know most of the words. But the music itself is only part of the band's allure; there's something electric in the execution, and it's that vigor that carries the day as much as the pull of recognition.

So, yeah, there's a history. And it's a big one. Bigger than any one person. Bigger than any one band, for that matter. But Good Shot Judy is as close as it comes to an intersection between an era's defining sound and the pleasure of enjoying it the way it was meant to be heard.



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## VIRGINIA WINE MONTH: *Winemakers are predicting a memorable vintage*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13C)

ed maybe two weeks ahead of a typical year," Nita said.

And drier conditions are ideal for producing complex, high-quality wines, according to Mike Albers, part-owner of Delfosse Vineyards and Winery in Nelson County, a 2023 Virginia Governor's Cup winner.

Delfosse received a 2023 Governor's Cup award for its 2021 Screaming Hawk Meritage—a 100-percent estate-grown red blend that "ages beautifully," Albers said.

"We let the fruit express itself," he explained. "That's the beautiful thing about Virginia wines—Mother Nature gives us something different every year."

Albers added that grape growers love drought. "The vine stress concentrates more on the fruit, and it ripens sooner and gives it great chemistry for wines."

After a slow start and early budding during the cooler spring, Albers said area grape growers are diligently preparing for a promising harvest.

"As long as the weather cooperates with us over the next four to six weeks and it stays dry, we are anticipating a standout vintage this year," he said.

"Beautiful, lovely and delicious grapes" are growing in abundance in Loudoun County as another Governor's Cup winner, 868 Estate Vineyards, anticipates its second consecutive record-breaking harvest.

"Our vineyards have been really prolific with high-quality grapes these past two years, and it's a magic thing when both conditions are met in the same year," said owner Nancy Deliso.

In 2020, the winery's 2017 Vidal Blanc Passito was the first wine fully grown and made in Loudoun County to win a Virginia Governor's Cup award.

With 21 acres of 14 different varietals, 868 Estate continues to experiment with new hand-crafted creations, including a cooperative wine developed by eight area vineyards that will make its debut this fall.

"Virginia wine gets better and better every year," Deliso said. "It's wonderful that you can have not only a wonderful and very personal experience

at a Virginia winery, but also really excellent wine."

Deliso encourages Virginians to explore their local wineries, connect with owners and winemakers, and take advantage of the various Virginia Wine Month specials.

"It's an opportunity to stock up on wine for the holidays," she noted. "Come visit us, take wine home, and support

the industry by drinking really good local wine throughout the year."

Virginians can explore winning wineries from the 2023 Virginia Governor's Cup Competition along the 2023 Gold Medal Wine Trail. For more information or to find a list of wineries near you, visit the Virginia Wine website at [virginiawine.org](http://virginiawine.org).



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of Virginia. The event benefits Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, the fair's youth scholarship program and the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture, Innovation and Rural Sustainability. The

SEE STATE FAIR, PAGE 16C



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# STATE FAIR: *Taste of Virginia event to be held on Sept. 28*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15C)  
tasting event will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 28, in Meadow Hall at the Meadow Event Park in Caroline County.  
Tickets include premium parking and entry to the State Fair, which is being held Sept. 22 through Oct. 1. Proceeds benefit the foundation that brings agricultural concepts and projects to classrooms statewide.

“Taste of Virginia tells the story of Virginia agriculture and its impact on our daily lives,” said Christy Murphy, AITC fundraising coordinator. “We are excited to showcase growers, chefs and spirits found across the commonwealth. AITC’s mission is to connect children to agriculture, and this event will help us raise funds to continue providing free resources to educators and volunteers to help us ensure children know where their food, fuel and fiber originate.”

Farm-fresh ingredients sourced from 14 partner farms will be incorporated into every dish, coordinated through VA FAIRS.

“Virginia boasts such a robust number of farms and agricultural products that can be grown here,” said Whitney Perkins, VA FAIRS assistant director. “You can’t beat the freshness, quality, and having that relationship—know your farmer, know your food.”

Chef Tammy Brawley of The Green Kitchen and host of Heart of the Home on Real Virginia, Virginia Farm Bureau’s weekly television program, will serve the show’s most-clicked recipe—tomato pie.

“Tomato pie is the epitome of summer,” she said. “My daughter requests it every

year when tomatoes come in. You can look up a thousand different recipes, and this is my version, which is bite-sized for this event.”

Brawley will also serve corn salsa with chips. Brawley described it as having a great flavor with fresh, seasonal vegetables. “Vegetables are your stars that really shine

when they’re in season.”

Six other celebrity chefs from notable restaurants and televised competitions will prepare signature dishes, including Leah Branch, Anton Brinson, Kaniyah Carey, Steve Glenn, Mike Lindsey and Kip Poole. Pairings include tastings from Cirrus Vodka, The Estate at White-

hall Vineyard, Hardywood Park Craft Brewery, Patch Brewing Co., Wind Vineyards, and Woodbine Vineyards.

Tickets are still available at \$100 each or \$150 per couple. Visit [shorturl.at/fuW9](http://shorturl.at/fuW9) to purchase tickets or call Murphy at 804-290-1030 with questions.



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