



For Immediate Release

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**2nd Annual Columbia Gorge Wine & Pear Fest – May 18-20, 2012**  
*Featuring 30 of the Best Wineries in the Columbia Gorge AVA*

**Hood River, OR** - Hood River Rotary announced the Columbia Gorge Wine & Pear Fest – set for May 19-20th in Hood River. This three day event will start Friday evening in downtown Hood River with a Pub Crawl and the Saturday/Sunday event will feature the many award-winning wineries and vineyards in the Columbia Gorge AVA, including two days of wine tasting, artists from around the Pacific Northwest, fruit pairings from the Pear Bureau, food from the best restaurants in the region, and area musicians. The event will be held at the Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum (WAAAM) in Hood River.

Following are specific details about the events:

**Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Columbia Gorge Pub Crawl**

Columbia Gorge Wine Pub Crawl in downtown Hood River- Join us for the premier kickoff event in May by visiting the craft brewers and tasting rooms in downtown Hood River. 2 award-winning brewers, 8 wine tasting rooms, 16 restaurants, and 5 pubs all within a 3 square block area.

**Saturday and Sunday May 19-20th 2012 – Columbia Gorge Wine Fest at WAAAM**

The Columbia Gorge Wine and Pear Festival features “local” wines from noted award-winning winemakers Rich Cushman, Lonnie Wright and Michael Sebastiani. Admission includes wine-tastings from 30 wineries and vineyards, pairings with local fruit, specially selected food from local restaurants, art from noted local artisans, and music by renowned Gorge musicians. Attendees will also be able to stroll through the Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum (WAAAM) one of the largest collections of still-flying antique airplanes and still-driving antique automobiles in the country.

Sponsors include the USA Pear Bureau Northwest, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers, Bob Stone Freeway Auto Center, Columbia State Bank, Custom Interface, Diamond Fruit, Full Sail Brewery, and Insitu.

Tickets: \$20 per person includes 5 wine-tastings, commemorative glass and admission to WAAAM  
Hours: Saturday 12-8pm, Sunday 12-6pm  
Other: Free on-site parking

**Lodging Packages**

Several participating local hotels offer lodging packages that include admission tickets. Availability is limited so book your reservations soon at [www.hoodriver.org/travelers-guide/where-to-stay](http://www.hoodriver.org/travelers-guide/where-to-stay) and build your calendar around this fun-filled weekend to help Rotary support several worthy causes.

**About Hood River Rotary**

The Columbia Gorge Wine and Pear Festival is the largest annual fund-raiser for Hood River Rotary Club. Proceeds from this event will go to funding college scholarships.

Watch for additional details in the near future at [www.wineandpearfest.com](http://www.wineandpearfest.com)  
Check out our blog at <http://wineandpearfest.wordpress.com>

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