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*Digital Photos and Event Logo
Available Upon Request*



6th annual Windy City Wine Festival returns to Chicago with 300 wine varieties Sept. 10 & 11
Two Exciting Days of Wine Sampling, Cooking Demonstrations, Wine Seminars and Live Musical Entertainment

August 3, 2010; CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – The sixth annual **Windy City Wine Festival**, presented by U.S. Bank, returns to downtown Chicago at its new location – **Buckingham Fountain**, in the center of Grant Park at Columbus Drive and Congress Parkway (500 S. Columbus Drive), **Friday, September 10** and **Saturday, September 11**, for an unforgettable celebration of wine, food, music and friends.

Set in the shadow of the breathtaking Chicago skyline, the Windy City Wine Festival features more than 300 international and domestic wine varieties, presented by more than 50 festival vendors.

"We are thrilled that U.S. Bank will be the presenting sponsor for the Windy City Wine Festival for the next four years," said Lynn Rosinsky, Chicago Market President, U.S. Bank. "It will be a wonderful way to celebrate the beauty of Lake Michigan and Buckingham Fountain with friends and great wines, food and music."

Festival guests have the unique opportunity to interact firsthand with wine makers and brand experts, expanding their wine knowledge and discovering the blends that best suit their taste. To complement the wine, many of Chicago's finest restaurants will be on site selling their gourmet specialties.

Beer lovers will enjoy **the Belgian Beer Café**, a beer garden experience within the festival presented by Stella Artois and featuring ample sampling of Stella Artois, Leffe and Hoegaarden beers. Bart Vandaele, owner/executive chef of Belga Café in Washington, D.C., will highlight the natural affinity between Belgian beer and fine food as well as educate guests on proper beer pouring techniques, the importance of using the right glassware and food pairing ideas for Belgian beers.

"We're pleased to welcome U.S. Bank as the presenting sponsor of our sixth annual festival in one of Chicago's most beautiful festival locations with an international selection of new wine blends," said Scott Janess, organizer of the Windy City Wine Festival. "The relaxed setting takes the fear and mystery out of learning about wine. Our festival is the perfect opportunity for everyone from the wine enthusiast to novice to walk away with a new appreciation for wine."

Interactive wine seminars and cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs and wine experts will educate guests on new recipes and the best food and wine pairing combinations. The entertainment stage will feature live music with headline acts including Chicago folk rock singer **Michael McDermott** and **The Michael Heaton Band**.

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The Windy City Wine Festival will take place Friday from 4 to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 3 to 9 p.m. Alcohol sampling and sales end 30 minutes prior to closing each night.

Adult Wine Tasting Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the gate. Advance tickets can be purchased through Sept. 9th. This ticket price includes a souvenir wine glass, 10 tastings, a Festival Program and food and wine demonstrations and musical entertainment. **Additional tasting coupons** may be purchased at the festival.

Designated Driver Tickets are \$10 in advance or at the gate. This ticket includes two non-alcoholic drinks, a Festival Program, food and wine seminars, access to cooking demos, musical entertainment and a souvenir wine glass upon departure. Attendees under 21 are admitted for free when accompanied by a paid adult.

For groups of 15 or more, tasting tickets are discounted to \$22.50. To purchase group tickets, order 15 or more tickets online or call 877-772-5425.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.windycitywinefestival.com or by phone at 877-772-5425. Please note an additional fee applies for phone orders. Phone center hours are 8:00am to 9:00pm Central time – 7 days a week. Tickets will also be available for purchase on-site at Buckingham Fountain on the day of the festival. Parking is available at the Grant Park South Garage.

A portion of the Festival proceeds benefits Grant Park Conservancy.

In addition to U.S. Bank, the Windy City Wine Festival sponsors include Stella Artois, Leffe, Hoegaarden, Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal LLP, Fletcher Jones Audi, Black Box Wines, Wine Discount Center, AirTran Airways, WILV 100.3 FM, Southern Wine & Spirits of Illinois, Grant Park Conservancy and Chicago Park District.

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U.S. Bancorp (NYSE: [USB - News](#)), with \$282 billion in assets as of March 31, 2010, is the parent company of U.S. Bank, the fifth largest commercial bank in the United States. The company operates 3,025 banking offices in 24 states and 5,312 ATMs and provides a comprehensive line of banking, brokerage, insurance, investment, mortgage, trust and payment services products to consumers, businesses and institutions. Visit U.S. Bancorp on the web at www.usbank.com.

About inPLAY Events

The Windy City Wine Festival is produced and managed by inPLAY EVENTS, a corporate events and marketing consulting company known for consistent quality and exceptional creativity. Each year, inPLAY produces eight wine festivals across the Midwest and has a strong charitable presence at each event. Visit the company on the web at www.inplayevents.com.