

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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THE FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS CELEBRATES TWO WORLDS OF WINE AT 11th ANNUAL EVENT

Throw off the mid-winter chill on Friday, March 12 by coming to the Flint Institute of Arts for the 11th Annual Wine Tasting Event.

A brand new component is "La Patisserie," featuring tasty pastries and desserts from six area bakeries and restaurants plus dessert wines and coffee.

For the second year, guests can gather in the FIA's Members Room for the optional early bird reception starting at 5:30p.m. Join South African winemaker Cornel Olivier from Two Lads Winery on Old Mission Peninsula as he pours his acclaimed cabernet franc.

The French Laundry of Fenton will provide appetizers.

The main activity will take place in the spacious Isabel Hall and Lobby. There, guests may enjoy wine and food from around the world. Wine chairman Alan Agree is working closely with area retailers and distributors to provide an exciting variety of wines from both the Old World and New World.

Guests will be able to pair individual wines with delicious food from six of the area's finest dining establishments. The FIA is excited to welcome new downtown restaurants Blackstone's Pub & Grill and 501 Bar and Grill to the lineup. Returning are Brick Street Bar & Grill, Da Edoardo North Ristorante, Fandangles' and Luca's Chophouse.

"The wine tasting event is always an elegant and enjoyable affair and this year promises to be nothing less," says Sherren Sandy, FIA's Events Coordinator. "I think there will be a little something here for everyone -- quality wines, delectable food and stunning art!"

Guests may step directly from their cars into the FIA, 1120 E. Kearsley St., by taking advantage of complimentary valet parking. Each guest will also receive a complimentary tasting glass.

For the first time, tickets may be purchased online. Go to www.flintarts.org and click on the Wine Tasting box or phone (810) 234-1695. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Tickets are \$60 each for FIA members and \$75 for non-members. The early bird reception is ticketed separately. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. To buy tickets to both activities at the lower sums, join the FIA today for only \$30.

"This event is not only a great way to spend a night out, but it showcases and supports one of Flint's cultural gems," says Sandy. "Proceeds from the event will benefit exhibitions and programming at the FIA."

Wine lovers, be sure to see "Mid-August Lunch," the Friends of Modern Art film at 7:30p.m. on February 19 and 20 or at 2:00p.m. on February 21.

Sponsors for this event include: The Flint Journal, Fifth Third Bank, Sharp Funeral Homes, Lewis & Knopf, CPA's, Holiday Inn Express Flint – Campus Area, Medical Professionals, Inc., Paradyne Art Studio & Lynne A. Taft, Attorney at Law and media sponsor, View Newspapers.

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