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KICK OFF THE 10th ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL WITH A TASTY TOAST TO VINO

BETHEL, NY (August 20, 2008) – The Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods opens with its annual Wine Festival on Sunday, August 24th. The Wine Festival features a tasting of regional wineries from the Hudson Valley and Finger Lakes, short seminars and other elements of interest to connoisseurs, collectors and wine lovers. Wine is available for tasting and for sale, there is a \$5 participation fee. Performances by Erin Slaver, Stacy Cohen and Friends and a book signing by Paul Vazquez.

The Harvest Festival occurs every Sunday 11am – 4pm, August 24th thru Columbus Day weekend, rain or shine. Located approximately 90 minutes from New York City at the site of the original 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, NY, this is the perfect day trip or weekend getaway. Admission and parking are free. Harvest Festival attendees can also add a ticket for The Museum at Bethel Woods, which explores the 60's and Woodstock, and make a full day of their visit. Wineries at this years' Wine Festival include:

Adair Vineyards - Adair Vineyards is located in the Historic Hudson Valley made famous by explorers, soldiers, and artists. The winery was acquired in 1997 by its current owners and has been thriving ever since. In order to maintain the highest quality, Adair's wines are created firstly with estate-grown grapes and then supplemented with additional varieties grown at a local farm. The vineyard is comprised of two white varieties: Seyval Blanc and Vignoles, two red varieties: Foch and Millot.

Anthony Road Winery – The vineyards, retail shop and production facilities of Anthony Road Wine Company are located in Yates County on the west side of Seneca Lake in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Anthony Road Wine Company uses only grapes grown in the Finger Lakes region to create their wines. An array of wine is produced – from dry to dessert – with a range of tastes designed to please connoisseurs and casual aficionados alike.

Bashakill Vineyards - BashaKill Vineyards is Sullivan County's first commercial winery. Set in a picturesque region of the Catskills, Bashakill Vineyards got its start in the spring of 2005. The vineyard is on a slight slope which flows down to the Bashakill wetlands. The proximity to the Bashakill wetlands provides ideal conditions for growing. The moist, warmer air off of the wetlands pushes the colder air off the vineyard and provides a blanket, protecting the vines from the early frosts so commonly found in this region.

Brimstone Hill Winery – Located in the beautiful historic Hudson Valley region, this winery grows and produces elegant country Hudson River region wines. In the summer of 1980, Richard and Valerie Eldridge started by selling two wines -- a 1979 Vin Rouge and a 1979 Vin Blanc. Now the Brimstone Hill label is attached to more than 8 wines, which include a sparkling wine made in the traditional "Methode

Champenoise", a Chardonnay, a Cabernet Franc, and a Riesling. This year Brimstone Hill Vineyard & Winery is celebrating 29 years of operation.

Brotherhood Winery – Located in Washingtonville, NY, Brotherhood Winery is tagged as America's Oldest Winery. The winery was established by a European emigrant, John Jaques, who produced the first commercial vintage in 1839. Brotherhood has been in continuous operation since that time - making the winery the oldest in the United States!

Cascade Mountain Winery - Cascade Mountain was founded in the spring of 1972 by the Wetmore family who pioneered the production of premium table wines on the eastern side of the Hudson River. Today, Cascade Mountain is a thriving business which features a full line of award-winning table wines and a highly rated restaurant.

Fulkerson Winery – Located on Seneca Lake in the Finger Lakes, Fulkerson Winery has been in operation since 1989. Owners Sayre & Nancy Fulkerson have increased production as well as quality over the years. The winery offers a wide selection of wines including vinifera, hybrid and native varietals. You'll also find specialty wines such as Riesling, Cabernet Franc, Gewurztraminer, Noiret, Ravat 51, Vincent, Dornfelder and Traminette among many other fine crafted wines.

Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards – Home to the famous Red Cat wine, Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards is located on the east side of Seneca Lake, in the Finger Lakes region. The late Jerry Hazlitt and his wife Elaine founded the winery in 1984. Jerry was an ardent home winemaker and wanted to share the fruits of his labors with friends and visitors.

Hudson-Chatham Winery - The Hudson-Chatham Winery is the dream of Carlo and Dominique DeVito, both publishing professionals who have long shared a love of wine. This exciting new winery, which specializes in small hand-made batches of wine, is dedicated to the richness of the Hudson River Valley, particularly its wine, agriculture, literature, art, history, and many other attractions that make it a rich and special region. The Hudson-Chatham Winery, located between the historic towns of Hudson and Chatham, is the first winery in Columbia County.

Pazdar Winery – David Pazdar started the Pazdar Winery in 1995 to produce Innovative Unique Boutique and Hand Crafted Premium Wines with Attitude. The first wines were released June 1996. To ensure quality, their wines are hand-crafted using the finest grapes, fresh pressed fruit juice, and finest winemaking techniques from Europe and the United States. They are carefully aged. It is only when they have reached the desired flavor, that they are bottled and sold.

Swedish Hill Winery - Swedish Hill features Cayuga Lake's largest selection of wines, from dry to sweet, classic to unique, including Champagne, Port, and Brandy. After 20 years of growing and selling grapes to area wineries, Dick and Cindy Peterson crushed their first grapes in 1985 and opened Swedish Hill Winery in 1986. Swedish Hill is recognized as one of the top award-winning wineries in New York State, having won state, national and international acclaim.

Whitecliff Winery - Whitecliff Vineyard sits on 70 acres opposite the Shawangunk Mountain chain located west of the Hudson River. It is one of ten wineries of the famed Shawangunk Wine Trail and is following in the tradition of French Huguenot settlers who brought wine making to this scenic valley over three centuries ago. Whitecliff is working with European vinifera varietals such as Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc and Riesling, and quality hybrids like Seyval Blanc and Vignoles, including a significant planting of Pinot Noir.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods, an annual event celebrating the bounty, talent, and beauty of Sullivan County and the region. In ten years, the festival has grown from a small farmer's market with a handful of vendors and a few guest musicians who provided background music, to a full festival featuring close to 100 vendors each week as part of the farmer's market, craft village and festival food areas. The Festival also presents special events and live performances, a children's area with enrichment activities that include arts and crafts as well as corn and hay mazes, pony rides, "gathering of the scarecrows" and more.

A sense of community is reflected throughout the Harvest Festival. The corn and hay mazes are operated by volunteer organizations that are able to benefit from this fundraising opportunity as well as by the chance to share information about their group and possibly recruit new volunteers. The Children's Area features various activities each week that are presented by community organizations that also have the opportunity to educate others about their mission.

The 10th anniversary season of the Harvest Festival is presented by The Chapin Estate and supported by the Gerry Foundation as well as other sponsors who share the same commitment to the community and regional economic development.

August 31 - Alpaca Festival
September 7 - Rustic for the Home
September 14 - Mountain Music Festival
September 21 - Earth Day in Autumn
September 28 - The Ag Experience
October 5 - Cajun Festival
October 12 - Chili Cook-Off

About The Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods:

The Harvest Festival is one of several programs that reflect the commitment to community that serves as the fundamental mission of the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. The festival reflects our mission to support sustainability and continued regional economic development through this annual commitment to provide a venue for our local farmers, artisans, community organizations and businesses. A visit to the Festival offers the opportunity for people to gather and form relationships in ways that are absent from traditional retail/buyer transactions. We connect local and regional growers and artisans with the community and provide an opportunity for shoppers to buy local and support a regional economy. The benefit of being able to interact with the hard working families who produce and harvest their food and the thrill of watching artisans create their wares keeps Festival goers coming back week after week; year after year. The grown and harvested food and crafted items are acts of personal inspiration, and the festival offers visitors the opportunity to learn more about this process and to better appreciate and understand its value.

ABOUT THE CHAPIN ESTATE

The 2,500± acre Chapin Estate encompasses hundreds of acres of unspoiled wilderness, including two boating and fishing reservoirs, a private trout fishing stream and miles of hiking trails which are also suitable for mountain biking and horseback riding. The Chapin Estate also adjoins more than 13,000 acres of forever wild forestlands owned by the State of New York. The Chapin Estate homes are specifically designed and built to reflect the owners' unique lifestyle and personal desires, while accentuating the natural beauty and balance with its setting. Located just two hours from New York City, The Chapin Estate provides an "Adirondack experience" all year long, offering amenities including a members only Lake Club and a community exclusive Concierge Service. For more information please contact The Chapin Estate at (866) 5834900 or visit www.ChapinEstate.com.

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