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## **THE RHONE RANGERS, PRODUCERS OF AMERICAN RHONE WINES, WILL RIDE INTO SEATTLE AND LOS ANGELES THIS SUMMER FOR THREE TASTING EVENTS.**

July 12- Rhone Rangers host a trade and media tasting in Seattle

July 13 - Rhone Rangers join FareStart for their  
Guest Chef on the Waterfront Event

August 7 – Rhone Rangers invite trade, media and consumers  
to taste in Los Angeles

June 29, 2011 – The Rhone Rangers will present their premium American-produced Rhone wines at three upcoming summer events. On July 12, the Rhone Rangers will pour their wines for the wine trade and media in Seattle and on July 13 they will be the exclusive wine sponsor for FareStart's annual Guest Chef on the Waterfront event for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Both events will be held at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center at Pier 66 on the Seattle waterfront. Then in August, the Rhone Rangers head south to Los Angeles for their fourth and final event for 2011, where they will host a tasting for trade and media from 12 noon – 2 PM, followed by a consumer tasting from 2-5 PM at Pier 59 Studios West in Santa Monica.

All three events offer the opportunity to taste wine from visiting wineries who make hand-crafted American Rhone wines, including white varieties such as Viognier, Roussanne and Marsanne, and select red varieties including Syrah (shiraz), Grenache, Mourvedre and Petite Sirah. The Rhone Rangers tasting events are intended to bring the wine country to urban areas, including San Francisco, Washington DC, Seattle and Los Angeles, making it easier for trade and consumers to experience these wines and to meet the winemakers.

"We look forward to these events every year" said Josh Bendick, General Manager of Holly's Hill Vineyards in Placerville, CA and president of the Rhone Rangers board of directors. "Each year we have seen a greater response to these tasting events. The Pacific Northwest is a very sophisticated wine market and we are excited to visit this area again and provide a unique opportunity to trade and consumers to taste these wines, many of which are from out of the area. Our Los Angeles event sells out every year and those who attend can sample from over two hundred different American Rhone wines.

### **July 12, 2-5 PM - Rhone Rangers host tasting for the Washington wine trade industry**

The Trade is invited to taste wines from forty Rhone Rangers member wineries during this exclusive three hour event, open only to credentialed members of the wine trade and media.

Participating wineries include: Bonny Doon, Chateau Ste. Michelle, Cinder, Cline Cellars, Columbia Winery, Cornerstone Cellars, Curtis Winery, Cypher Winery, Domaine Serene, Epiphany Cellars, Fess Parker, Folin Cellars, Harbinger Winery, Holly's Hill Vineyards, Kenneth Volk Vineyards, Maison Bleue, Mercer Estates, Pride Mountain Vineyards, Skylark Wine Co, Stage Left Cellars, Tablas Creek Vineyard, Waterbrook and Zaca Mesa.

**Tickets: Qualified Trade members may register for the exclusive complimentary tasting online at [www.rhonerangers.org/traderegistration](http://www.rhonerangers.org/traderegistration)**

**Event Location:** Maritime Event Center  
Bell Harbor International Conference Center – Pier 66  
2211 Alaskan Way, Pier 66, Seattle, WA 98121

### **July 13 - Rhone Rangers Join FareStart at Guest Chef on the Waterfront Event**

Attendees will savor bites from the Seattle area's most talented chefs and taste wine from twenty Rhone Ranger wineries. This popular annual summer tasting event attracts over 1200 attendees to Bell Harbor's Elliott Hall at Pier 66. All proceeds will directly benefit FareStart's job training and placement program. This summer's tasting celebration includes games of chance, live jazz and a beautiful sunset. Participating wineries include: Bonny Doon, Chateau Ste. Michelle, Cinder, Cline Cellars, Columbia Winery, Cornerstone Cellars, Curtis Winery, Cypher Winery, Epiphany Cellars, Fess Parker, Folin Cellars, Harbinger Winery, Holly's Hill Vineyards, Kenneth Volk Vineyards, Maison Bleue, Mercer Estates, Pride Mountain Vineyards, Skylark Wine Co, Stage Left Cellars, Tablas Creek Vineyard, Waterbrook and Zaca Mesa.

**Tickets are \$75 and may be purchased online: [www.farestart.org](http://www.farestart.org)**

**Event Location:** Elliott Hall  
Bell Harbor International Conference Center – Pier 66  
2211 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA 98121

### **August 7 – Rhone Rangers Host a Trade and Consumer Tasting at Pier 59 Studios West**

Forty Rhone Rangers member wineries will offer over 200 American Rhone wines for tasting at this annual event in the Los Angeles area. This event sells out every year, so consumers and trade are advised to sign up quickly in order to reserve a ticket. Participating wineries include: Alta Colina, Andrew Murray Vineyards, Anglim, Calcareous, Caliza, Clavo Cellars, Cornerstone Cellars, Curtis Winery, Derby Wine Estates, Ecluse Wines, Epiphany Cellars, Fess Parker, Frick Winery, Halter Ranch, Holly's Hill, J. Lohr, Jada Vineyard & Winery, JK Wine Co – Katin & Arada, Maison Bleue, Martian Ranch & Vineyard, Michael-David Winery, Niner Wine Estates, Ortman Family Vineyards, Pax Mahle, Pomar Junction, Qupe, Stolpman, Tablas Creek, Tercero, Treana, Venteux Vineyards, Vina Robles, Waterbrook and Zaca Mesa.

### **Trade and Media Tasting, 12 noon – 2 PM**

Qualified Trade members may register for complimentary tickets at

[www.rhonerangers.org/traderegistration](http://www.rhonerangers.org/traderegistration)

### **Consumer Tasting**

Tickets are \$45 for General Admission, 2-5 PM:and \$75 for VIP Early Admission at 12 noon.

To purchase go online at [www.rhonerangers.org](http://www.rhonerangers.org) (see upcoming events section).

**Event Location:** Pier 59 Studios West  
2415 Michigan Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90404

### **About the Rhone Rangers**

The Rhone Rangers started from a small gathering of American vintners dedicated to the production of wines from the grapes native to France's Rhone Valley who began meeting informally in the 1980s. As their numbers expanded, they organized themselves under the name "Rhone Rangers." The Rhone Rangers is a non-profit organization focused on promoting the enjoyment of Rhone varietal wines produced in the United States. These grapes include the 22 traditional varieties approved by the French government grown in the Cotes du Rhone, as well as Durif (Petite Sirah).