



MEDIA RELEASE

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## **YARRA VALLEY LAUNCHES NEW REGIONAL FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL IN 2012**

*Yarra Valley Food & Wine Festival - Reap & Relish  
Thursday April 26 to Sunday April 29, 2012*

Victoria's world class wine region, *The Yarra Valley*, has a new signature food and wine event set to showcase the best of the region's quality local produce and producers – *The Yarra Valley Food & Wine Festival* – launching in April 2012.

The four day festival – from *Thursday April 26 to Sunday April 29, 2012* – will showcase the Yarra Valley's top wineries and restaurants, allowing festival goers to *Reap & Relish* the culinary delights of the region.

Festival goers will be able to experience *cooking classes, cider sessions, greenhouse tours, chocolate making, world class degustation dinners, twilight wine tastings* and sample *fresh local produce*.

The festival will open on *Thursday April 26, 2012* with a *Grand Opening Degustation Dinner* at *Stones of the Yarra Valley* where diners can enjoy a five course degustation dinner in the historic Barn Restaurant – a collaboration between the Yarra Valley's finest chefs, with a menu inspired by the region's freshest seasonal produce.

An *Avant Garde Producers Dinner* will be held on *Friday April 27, 2012* with the opportunity to meet with people in the Yarra Valley who buck the norm, join winemakers Luke Lambert from *Luke Lambert Wines*, Andrew Marks from *The Wanderer*, Gary Damon Mills from *Jamsheed* and award winning Sommelier Christian Maier in a shared feast of innovative ideas, fresh flavors and lush textures within the intimate surrounds of the *Healesville Country Club*.

After a day of festivities, on Saturday evening, retreat to the **Autumn Harvest Dinner** in the gardens of **De Bortoli Yarra Valley Estate** where guests will mingle over canapés and sparkling with **Leanne De Bortoli**, chief wine maker **Steve Webber** and special guest **James Halliday**, before sitting down to a sensational six course dinner with matched wine.

The festival will end on **Sunday April 29, 2012** with a **Sunday Garden Party** at the **Healesville Racecourse**. Here you can sip artisan beers and ales, sample farm house cheese, try **award winning Chardonnay** and **Pinot Noir**, take home fresh produce and marvel at a demonstration, all to the sounds of a host of local artists.

With these events – and more – the inaugural **Yarra Valley Food & Wine Festival** promises to be a highlight of the gastronomic calendar in 2012, and a chance to join in a celebration of regional produce and producers, in a region renowned for its quality food and wine offerings.

**For more information visit : [www.yarravalleyfestival.com.au](http://www.yarravalleyfestival.com.au)**



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