

The Third Annual First Sip Lodi Wine Weekend

November 13-14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

By Kimberly Horg-Webb

More than 40 wineries in the Lodi Wine Country will be hosting the Third Annual First Sip Lodi Wine Weekend. The event falls right after the harvest season on November 13 and 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. so visitors will be toasting to another successful harvest.

Guests receive a wine glass and map of winery events. The ticket grants access to all the wineries in which participants take a self-guided tour where they can enjoy various activities including live music, barrel tasting, barrel building

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Destination: Harvest

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demonstrations, grape stomps, bottling wine, wine and food pairing seminars, cellar and vineyard tours and of course tasting different varieties of wines.

"This event is for consumers who are interested in taking a peek behind the cellar door to learn about the winemaking process, see what goes into the delicious wines, meet the growers and winemakers, experience the authentic hospitality and gain a new perspective and passion for Lodi wines," Courtney Thommen, Event Manager for the Lodi Winegrape Commission, said. "It's a fun, educational and tasty experience!"

At last year's event there were between 3000-3500 people and this year the wineries are expecting more people to join in on the action.

"With the event falling right after what we hope to be another successful harvest season in Lodi, our vintners are excited to celebrate the fruits of their labor and share them with guests," Thommen said.

According to her, it is a great way to spend the weekend, before the holiday season takes over. Guests can check out Lodi Wine Country, try new wines and pick a few bottles for the Thanksgiving table.

One ticket is valid for both days.



Ariana Watkinson of Newport Beach and Karen Armstrong of Chico stomp grapes at Ripken Winery.

(Lodi Winegrape Commission)

Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door of any participating winery. Tickets can be purchased by calling (209) 367-4727 or by visiting www.firstsiplodi.com.