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**NEWS RELEASE**

Slides Available

## **Join us in June!**

### **Indiana Wine and Grape Month**

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. –From the rolling hills of Southern Indiana to the Lake Michigan coast, 8 Indiana wineries will offer visitors 13 special events in June. Proclaimed by Governor Frank O'Bannon as Indiana Wine and Grape Month, wine activities will occur on evenings and weekends throughout the state.

“Visitors will discover fun, relaxation, and wine education at all of the winery events in Indiana,” said Sally Peart, marketing and public relations specialist for the Indiana Wine Grape Council. “Each event offers a unique experience, from wine appreciation classes and festivals to garden parties with wine and jazz music.”

Many of the wineries host special activities throughout the year. In 1999, Indiana wineries will host or participate in over 100 festivals and events. Murder mystery and winemaker dinners, wine classes, outdoor music, and wine sales take place across the state on evenings and weekends. Wine tasting and cellar tours are offered to guests on a daily basis.

The number of Indiana family-owned wineries has increased from 9 to 19 since 1989. Dune Ridge Winery, Indiana's newest winery in the Northwest corner of the state, will be celebrating its first anniversary in June. In southern, central and northeast Indiana several potential wineries are in various development stages.

Indiana's winemaking and grape growing history began nearly 200 years ago when Swiss “vine-dressers” planted grapes along the Ohio River. Once the tenth largest grape producing state in the nation, Indiana's wine and grape industry ended with Prohibition. The Small Winery Law passed in 1971 allowed wineries to sell directly to the public, restarting the Indiana industry.

For a list of special events and an *Indiana Wineries* brochure containing tips of the trade, wine terms, maps and contact information, call the Indiana Wine Grape Council at 800-832-WINE. Or visit our web site at [http://www.aes.purdue.edu/Agresearch/IN\\_winewww.html](http://www.aes.purdue.edu/Agresearch/IN_winewww.html).

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**(See attached list for June special events and contact information)**