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WINES FROM THE OUTBACK
Sarah and Sparky Marquis Lead Enthusiast Tasting

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Don't get left behind! The Aussie Wine Enthusiast Tasting, one of several events planned for the 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend, presented by University Volvo, is almost sold out. Famed husband and wife duo, Sarah and Sparky Marquis, will lead the Enthusiast Tasting: Don't Get Left Behind! on Saturday, May 10 at The Westin in Uptown.

"Four of the wines produced by Sarah and Sparky in the last ten years have received a 99 point rating from wine critic Robert M. Parker Jr.," says Bill Ives, chair of the 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend.

For more than 12 years the couple has produced wines that have been 'wowing' wine fans around the world. They are best known for award-winning brands such as Fox Creek, Henry's Drive, Parsons Flat, Shirvington, Marquis Philips and Integrity. The couples' latest brand, Mollydooker, will be featured at the Enthusiast Tasting.

"Sarah and Sparky are two of the greatest winemakers in Australia. Their participation in the 2008 Weekend has been much anticipated," says Ives.

The couple has won the McLaren Vale Bushing Award three times and has earned the title of Australian Winemaker of the Year. Tickets are still available for \$150.

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Tickets for the 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend are available online at www.charlottewineandfood.com. Proceeds benefit the five community partners of the 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend: Allegro Foundation, Charlotte Symphony, Hospitality House of Charlotte, Johnson & Wales University scholarship fund and KinderMourn.

Since its inception in 1990, the Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend has grown into one of the Southeast's largest wine events and has raised more than \$2.7 million for local charities. Held in the spring of every even-numbered year, the Weekend draws notable winemakers from around the world and pairs them with Charlotte's top chefs for three days of fun and educational events. The 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend, presented by University Volvo, will take place Wednesday, May 7, through Saturday, May 10. For more information, visit www.charlottewineandfood.com.

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