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**WHAT'S YOUR PASSION?  
Share Wine, Food and a Passion for Charity at the  
2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The much anticipated 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend, presented by University Volvo, featuring world-renowned wine experts and chefs, will be held Wednesday, May 7-Saturday, May 10. All events are scheduled at the Westin in Uptown or at the Gateway Center Promenade.

“Over the last two years we have been planning for the 2008 Weekend,” said Emily Halyburton Peterson, event coordinator of Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend. “Our guest list this year includes some of the country’s top corporate executives and local community leaders as well as more than 40 respected winemakers.”

Events this year include Vintner Dinners, where Charlotte’s most noted restaurants are paired with the world’s best winemakers, the popular 1000 Point Tasting and two Connoisseur Tastings, a Spanish tasting hosted by Eric Solomon and an Italian tasting hosted by Leonardo Locascio and Antonio Galloni.

The weekend will also be highlighted by the Big Bottles & Blues event, sponsored by RBC Wealth Management. “A casual throw down, this is the largest event of the weekend,” says Peterson. “There will be live music, Southern cuisine and, of course, wine.” A live and silent auction will also be held during Big, Bottles & Blues, which will feature rare magnum bottles of wine, trips, dinners and jewelry donated by Morrison Smith Jewelers.

Johnson & Wales University will host Wine 101 and 201 sessions for those new to wine tasting and its passion.

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Tickets for the 2008 Charlotte Wine & Food Weekend are available online at [www.charlottewineandfood.com](http://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](http://www.charlottewineandfood.com).

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