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Grape Stomp 5K Races in AZ Wine Regions

Lace up your shoes and join the Great Arizona Grape Stomp

PHOENIX – What better way to experience Arizona’s beautiful wine regions than with your family and friends as you jog, run, or walk in the second annual Grape Stomp Five Kilometer Series sponsored by the Arizona Wine Growers Association (AWGA). The AWGA represents grape growers and wine producers throughout the state while promoting this fast-growing industry.

This year’s theme “Liberate your Juices” has runners enjoying the fresh air and natural surroundings in one or all four locations. This year, the races are set for the following dates and locations:

Race 1: September 10th at Coronado Vineyards, Willcox in Southeastern Arizona. Racers will be able to run through the vineyards at this award-winning winery. Following the race enjoy wine tasting at the area wineries in Willcox.

Race 2: October 1st in Historic Downtown Cottonwood in Northern Arizona. Racers will begin in Old Town, run to Dead Horse State Park, crossing the Verde River and finishing back in Old Town. After the run stay, relax, eat, shop and enjoy the wine tastings rooms. Then take in some music and food at the Rhythm & Ribs Festival in Old Town or venture out to the wonderful and scenic wineries in the countryside surrounding Cottonwood. You’ll be pleasantly surprised at what Cottonwood and the Verde Valley have to offer its visitors.

Race 3: October 22nd in the Sonoita/Elgin area in Southern Arizona. Racers register starting at 7:00 a.m. at Callaghan Vineyards and the course runs through Rancho Rossa’s Vineyard, along scenic Elgin Road with views of the Huachuca Mountain range, the Biscuit, and rolling grasslands. The finish line is at Callaghan Vineyards with refreshments and an awards ceremony. Childcare provided for children under running age (limited space available, RSVP to kelly@doscabesaswineworks.com).

Race 4: November 5th at the Fountain Park in Fountain Hills in Central Arizona. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with race start at 9:00 a.m. The race course traverses Fountain Hills Park with beautiful views of Four Peaks, Red Mountain, and the park’s centerpiece fountain. A mini-wine garden will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. where non-racers can enjoy a taste of Arizona wines for a fee (wine tasting for racers is included in their registration), an art fair, and special Fountain Hills Cultural Council docent-led public sculpture tours will follow the race.



To register for any or all of the races, go to <http://www.arizonawine.org/events.html> or www.active.com. The registration fee of \$35.00 includes a runners' tote bag, event t-shirt, wine glass, and discount coupons. The wine glasses can be used at local wineries for discounts. Many of the wineries have formed teams so join your favorite winery team to receive a discount of \$5 dollars for teams of 10 or more.

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About the Arizona Wine Growers Association (AWGA)

The AWGA serves grape growers and winemakers in Arizona, allying its members for representation, promotion and education. The association strives to advance with integrity the sustainable growth and production of authentic Arizona-grown wines.

Arizona has over 50 licensed and bonded wineries. Several Arizona wines have been served in the White House, and more than 20 wines from eight Arizona wineries have scored at least an 88 rating from *Wine Spectator*. In a recent blind taste test featuring several high-profile judges, Arizona wines beat out noted wines from around the world, grabbing three of the top five spots in both the red and white competitions. Arizona wines also took first place for both red and white. For more information visit www.ArizonaWine.org.