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Alyeska Resort celebrates blueberry season with family activities, culinary delights and live music at the fourth annual Blueberry Festival

August 3, 2010 (Girdwood, AK) – The key ingredient to Alyeska Resort’s popular summer festival is rapidly blooming throughout the valley just in time for the fourth annual Alyeska Blueberry Festival, scheduled for August 21 and 22, 2010. This year, the family-friendly outdoors festival expands to two-days and will run from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. each day. Admission to the festival is free.

The festival will feature a variety of arts, crafts and food booths – from hand-crafted jewelry and watercolor prints to blueberry-themed desserts and jam concoctions. Each day of the festival, there will be local musicians on the main stage, as well as a beer and wine garden. The live music line-up includes AK Popstars, Scout & the Harmonica Guy, Bootleg Brown, Fireweed Flutes, Sarahndipity, and the 11:20’s.

The resort has partnered with Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars (www.cask23.com) of Napa Valley for a special wine tasting event during Blueberry Festival. World-renowned, Stag’s Leap is a pioneer in California wine-making, established in 1970. The winery and vineyard reached notoriety six years later when it received first place honors in the historic *Judgment of Paris* where its 1973 Cabernet Sauvignon beat out ten French and California wines in a blind taste test by leading French wine experts. Establishing California as an internationally recognized force in grape-growing and wine-making, Stag’s Leap continues to lead the industry today with their estate-grown Cabernet Sauvignons. The wine tasting is from 1:00 pm to 4:00 p.m. each day and \$25 per person (ages 21 and over please). Tickets can be purchased online at AlyeskaResort.com, by calling 907-754-2275 or at the event. The wine tasting admission includes two tasting tickets and light appetizers, and a special presentation by an expert winemaker from Stag’s Leap.

Dedicated for kids of all ages, many of the featured activities at the festival are geared for hands-on fun and playing with Alaska’s favorite berry. There will be opportunities for children to decorate their own berry-picking bags and foray for berries in the courtyard area with Alyeska Resort’s mascot, Mogul Moose. The active Blueberry Stomp Fun Run, a short race up Blueberry Hill, is the perfect complement to all the sugary treats. The popular pie-eating contest has been expanded to include both kids and adults competing on the main stage for great prizes. Through out the festival, find artsy activities such as face painting, or try out fly-casting with a local fishing guide. The resort along with local tour operator The Ascending Path will also be offering guided hikes on the Winner Creek Trail and North Face Trail. These nature hikes combine an interpretive experience with cardio-activity. The Grand Opening Tournament for the resort’s new nine-hole disc golf course will cap the day at 6:00 p.m.

New to the festival schedule, the Resort is featuring its own culinary talents under the Food & Wine Tent. Seven Glaciers Restaurant Chef Tanner Exposito and Aurora Bar & Grill Chef Jason Porter will both be



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on-hand presenting 45-minute demonstrations with a blueberry focus. These demos will provide instruction, story-telling and sampling. Stag's Leap Wine Cellars and resident wine-expert, Eric Myers, will present sessions on wine heritage and appreciation. For the at-home chef, festival goers are encouraged to participate in the Blueberry Creations Contest. Submissions will be accepted during festival hours on Saturday and Sunday. The contest judging will take place at 5:00 pm on Sunday, August 22 and the panel of judges include top chefs from Girdwood and Anchorage.

As a grand finale to the weekend's festivities, Seven Glaciers Restaurant will be hosting Stag's Leap Wine Dinner on Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. The dinner will feature a family-style menu created by Chef Exposito to complement the exclusive wines pairings. The Wine Dinner is \$195 per person (21 and over please), and reservations can be made by calling 907-754-2237 or online. Wine Dinner Room Packages are available from \$250 per person, based on double occupancy, and include one-night deluxe lodging at The Hotel Alyeska plus two Wine Dinner tickets. Reservations are available by calling hotel reservations at 907-754-2111.

The Hotel Alyeska is offering special Blueberry Festival packages starting at \$199 per night. Packages include one-night's accommodation, breakfast and a scenic tram ride for two adults. Packages can be booked by calling hotel reservations at 907-754-2111 or online at AlyeskaResort.com. A complete schedule of activities and events for Blueberry Festival is available online.

Alyeska Resort (www.alyeskaresort.com)

Alyeska Resort is Alaska's premier destination featuring the luxurious Hotel Alyeska. Alyeska stands out during ski season, known for steep lines and over 650" of snow annually. With 1,400 skiable acres, 73 named runs and nine lifts include the 60-passenger scenic Aerial Tram, Alyeska operates one of the longest ski seasons in North America. Come summer season, Alyeska Resort transforms into a verdant playground featuring nature trails for hiking and biking that start right from the hotel. Located at the gateway to the Kenai Peninsula, home to world-class fishing, and within close proximity to three national parks – Denali, Kenai Fjords and Wrangell-St. Elias, Alyeska Resort makes the perfect adventure base camp. For more information visit AlyeskaResort.com or call 800-880-3880.

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