

# A 'Taste' of Grand

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A mixture of old and new will greet guests Saturday, as the 14th Taste of Grand gets underway on the INTEGRIS Grove Hospital parking lot.

The event, in its 14th year, is designed to showcase area restaurants and caterers. It offers food, wine and live music, all in an outdoor setting on the hospital parking lot.

It serves as the major fundraiser for the INTEGRIS Grove Hospital Foundation. Kristi Wallace, chairman of the event said it typically brings in \$60,000 to \$70,000 each year, with funds being used to help improve the health of people throughout northeast Oklahoma.

Wallace said this year's event brings together more than 27 restaurants, including four new vendors: 1909 - the new gastropub currently under construction on Third Street; Bobber's Cafe on south Grand Lake; Wolf Creek Dinner in Grove and Cafe Bellissimo also in Grove.

Returning favorites include: The Summit at Shangri-La, American Grill, Arrowhead Yacht Club, Cherokee Yacht Club, Downstream Casino Resort, Gabby's Place, Charlie's Chicken, Goodfella's Pizzeria, Harps Food Store, Indigo Sky Casino, La Casita de Martin, Okie Smokie's BBQ, The Parrot Steakhouse and Grill; Pizza Hut, Rib Crib and Silver Spoon Catering.

Wallace said all of the vendors have indicated they plan to "pull off the stops" this year with their offerings.

Wallace said a sneak peak at a few, including Shangri-La and Downstream Casino, indicate people may experience food offerings that are "off the charts."

"The event just keeps improving," Wallace said. "It's a win-win. The restaurant and caterers will end up getting business because of the exposure, and the businesses all participate because it supports the hospital's foundation.

"It's getting where the restaurants are going over the top, serving their [treats]."

Past foundation projects, Wallace said, have included the purchase of an infant ventilator and a new CT/MRI machine for the hospital, as well as providing medical equipment and medicine for low income patients and for cancer patients.

This year a selection of judges, including a food critic from the Tulsa World, will help award up to eight culinary excellence awards and the supreme cuisine award presented at the end of the evening.

Those in attendance will have an opportunity to vote on a "people's choice" award, which will also be awarded that night.

Once again David Moritz, with Society Awards, has provided the Taste of Grand culinary prizes.

Moritz, a graduate of Grove High School, is the producer of many media and entertainment industry awards including the Golden Globes, the Emmys, the MTV Movie statuettes, the ACMA awards and the Dancing with the Stars trophy.

Wallace said Les Goodman, with Les Liquor has done a "phenomenal" job pulling together "an excellent selection" of

beer, wine and spirits for the event.

This year's purveyors include: E. & J. Gallo Winery, Premium Brands Wine & Spirits Company, Republic, OK Beverage Imports, Select Wine, Southern Glazer and Thirst Wine Merchants. Harvest Fields Vending will also provide a variety of non-alcoholic beverages, plus water and soda mixers.

New this year, 412 West, recently voted one of the top 10 bands in northwest Arkansas, will bring the musical entertainment.

Wallace describes the group as a mix of rock, classic rock and rhythm and blues, adding that the group has played a numerous venues throughout northwest Arkansas including George's Majestic Lounge in Fayetteville.

Taste of Grand is put on with the financial support of the major event sponsors including Bank of Grove, an establishing and annual sponsor, or the newest major event sponsor, Nabholz Construction.

Additional supporters include platinum sponsors Grand Lake Dental, Grand River Abstract, and Grove Dental Associates as well as Gold Sponsors, Bank of Oklahoma, Grand Savings Bank, Keller Williams, Midwest Aero Care, Society Awards and Wells Fargo Advisors.

### **If You Go**

Tickets remain available for Taste of Grand, which takes place at 6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at 900 East 13th Street, Grove.

Tickets purchased by noon on Friday, Sept. 30, at area banks are \$85. Tickets purchased on the night of the event, at the door, are \$100.

Because alcohol is served, guests must be 21 to attend. Safe rides will be offered to guests needing assistance at the end of the evening.

For more information, persons interested may contact Kristi Wallace, event chairman, at 918-791-1974, visit [tasteofgrand.com](http://tasteofgrand.com) or find the event on Facebook.