

## News Release



### New Mexico Rail Runner Express running special Labor Day Weekend Service to Wine Festival again!

#### Wine Festival-goers urged to purchase Rail Runner tickets in advance on-line

(Bernalillo, NM August 18, 2008)- For the third year, visitors to the New Mexico Wine Festival will have another transportation alternative to get to the wildly popular affair. The New Mexico Rail Runner Express is once again sponsoring special train service over the upcoming long Labor Day weekend. And just as in years past, people taking the train can catch a free shuttle bus from the U.S. 550/Sandoval County station to the festival, or they can opt to take a short walk from the station to the annual event.

“For the past two years, the Rail Runner connection to the Wine Festival has been a tremendous success”, says Lawrence Rael, Executive Director for the Mid-Region Council of Governments. “Lots of people take advantage of the opportunity to avoid the traffic and parking hassles, and we expect record numbers to take the train to the Festival again this year. It has proved to be a great convenience and enjoyable experience.”

The 21st Annual New Mexico Wine Festival will be held in the Town of Bernalillo over Labor Day Weekend: Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, and Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. Wine Festival hours are noon to 7:00p.m. daily. (See accompanying train schedule)

Celebrating its 21st year, the New Mexico Wine Festival attracts nearly 30,000 people. 19 wineries from across the state offer up free tastings and sales by the glass, as well as the purchase of bottles and cases for home consumption. There’s also a variety of food vendors, live entertainment, and a juried art show. Once again, the festival also showcases some of New Mexico’s finest agriculture. There is even a dedicated area for kids called the “Kid’s Zone”.

“The New Mexico Wine Festival is the premier wine event of the Southwest”, says Maria Rinaldi, Executive Director, NM Wine Festival. “More and more people come out to the festival each year, so the fact that we can offer Rail Runner service to get them here is a big plus for this event.”

“It’s great that the Rail Runner can be used for special events like the New Mexico Wine Festival”, says Bernalillo Mayor Patricia A. Chávez. “Venues like this really serve to connect the region by bringing people together and increasing tourism in the middle valley. Additionally, the Wine Festival is an important economic event to the Town of Bernalillo”, adds Mayor Chávez.

Like last year festival-goers can avoid the lines and purchase their Rail Runner tickets in advance on-line at [www.nmrailrunner.com](http://www.nmrailrunner.com). All they have to remember when purchasing tickets for any of the three days is that they need to select the “Saturday Pass” option in order to get the \$2 day pass special fare. NM Wine Festival tickets can also be purchased in advance on-line at [www.newmexicowinefestival.com](http://www.newmexicowinefestival.com)

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