



Sept. 10, 11, 12, & 13 • P.O. Box 5166, Jackson MS
CelticFestMS.org

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SUPPORTING CELTICFEST WITH THE TONGUE

Event: 11th Annual Irish Whiskey and Scotch Tasting
Date: 7:30pm, September 11, 2009
Place: The Sparkman Auditorium at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, Jackson, MS
Cost: \$30 advance/online or call Aimée Cole at 601-376-9866 / \$40 at the door, space permitting
Information: www.CelticFestMS.org

(Jackson, MS) The Irish Whiskey and Scotch Tasting, now in its 11th year, is the only event of its kind in Mississippi. This home-grown Tasting is a benefit for CelticFest Mississippi, and has garnered quite a reputation, inspiring similar events at Celtic festivals throughout the country.

"Every year, the Tasting grows in terms of attendance and presence", says Perry Launius, who co-organizes the Tasting with Nick Lord at Wine & Spirits in the Quarter. "We increase the seating every year, and it always sells out!" In fact, in 2008, the benefit event outgrew its building, so the 2009 Tasting will move to CelticFest's largest venue, the Sparkman Auditorium at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum.

Also for 2009, the Irish Whiskey and Scotch Tasting is led once again by the esteemed Master Distiller, Evan Cattanach, from Kingussie, Scotland. Mr. Cattanach is the Ambassador of the Classic Malt collection with 47 years of personal experience years in the Scottish distilling industry.

"Having Mr. Cattanach guide this event for a second year in a row, at his own request, is a tremendous feat. His credentials are impeccable, with 33 years managing four of the six largest distilleries in Scotland," says Launius. "The goal every year is to make the Tasting better than the year before, and we're going to accomplish that for the 11th year."

It is important to the organizers of the Tasting and of CelticFest that participants drink responsibly. "We always encourage folks to bring a designated driver, and we have gifts and prizes just for 'DD's' at the Tasting," says Launius. "Also, there's plenty going on to entertain, since CelticFest kicks off at the same time with multiple stages running simultaneously."

Fenian's Irish Pub treats the Tasting participants well with catered confections to cleanse the palate. Far from their normal pub fare, the hors d'oeuvres are fit for the subtle tastes coaxed from the spirits.

"The Irish Whiskey and Scotch Tasting is a wonderful introduction to Irish whiskey and Scotch, while also appropriate for connoisseurs. Even folks who don't appreciate whiskey come out of the Tasting with a new favorite," says CelticFest Co-Director Don Penzien. "The exposition by the speaker is a tremendous component of the event."

Some of the whiskeys and Scotches featured at the Tasting have limited availability, which particularly has made the event special. Selections vary widely in respect to origin and price, but the list always impresses connoisseurs.

This event is sponsored by Wine & Spirits in the Quarter and Fenian's Irish Pub to raise funds in support of CelticFest Mississippi. The Tasting starts at 7:30 pm on Friday, Sept 11, and participants can enjoy the stage performances of Celtic music and dance for the rest of the evening! Learn more about the main event, CelticFest Mississippi, at www.CelticFestMS.org.

To reserve tickets: Tickets are available for purchase online at the CelticFest Mississippi website (www.CelticFestMS.org), or folks can call Aimée Cole at 601-376-9866. Capacity is limited and the event usually sells out, so advance purchase is highly recommended. For more information, please visit the CelticFest web site: www.CelticFestMS.org

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