

Celebrate a Traditional Italian Fall Festival at  
Casa Italia's First Annual

# Festa della Vendemmia

Mass in the Casa Chapel at Noon

Wine Tasting from Noon to 6 pm  
\$10 per person ~ unlimited tasting

Celebrity Grape Stomp at 1:45 pm

Winemaking Demonstration at 2 pm

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006 • 11 A.M. TO 6 P.M.**  
Casa Italia Festival Center • 39th and Soffel • Stone Park

**Farmer's Market**  
featuring locally grown flowers, corn, apples & all of your fall favorites

**Food Vendors**  
featuring a pig roast, Italian favorites & other great fall fare

Entertainment by Nino Folino

Bocce & Scopa Contests

Pottery, Jewelry & Crafts

Children's Activities  
hay rides, bubble jumpers,  
slide, train & petting zoo

Event is FREE of charge • FOR INFO, CALL 708-345-3842

The Festa della Vendemmia (Fall Harvest Festival) is shaping up as a major event. Plan to come before the noon Mass so you have plenty of time to browse through Italian American books, taste dozens of varieties of wine, stomp some grapes, squeeze some luscious fruit at the farmers market, take a passeggiata through the verdant Casa Italia campus, and perhaps visit the Italians in Chicago exhibit, the new IA Vets Museum, and Savoia's splendid Vatican replica. Crisp fall weather with azure skies and brilliant sunshine is also on the agenda. Admission is free, bring the whole family for

una bella giornata.

We still need volunteers---call 312-593-7255.

Celebrate fall at the Casa

by Kathy Catrambone

CAPTION Casa Italia will be awash in fall colors and Italian flavors during its first annual Festa della Vendemmia

In Italy, autumn is a time to celebrate the harvest. Grapes, of course, for wine; but also olives, apples, tomatoes and flowers.

Casa Italia will recreate the colors and flavors an Italian fall festival during its first Festa della Vendemmia on Oct. 1.

Josette Montesana Weber, festa organizer and executive director of the Italian Cultural Center at the Casa, wants to show Italian Americans what it's like this time of year in their native country.

“It is much more than just the wine harvest. It is a celebration of life and what the farmers have to offer,” she says. “Everyone knows Oktoberfest is German, with its focus on brats and beer. But in Italy, we celebrate the total picture.”

To create the right cultural ambiance, events are being planned throughout the day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Festival Center at the Casa, 37th and Soffel, Stone Park. Admission is free. A Mass will be celebrated at noon.

The public will be able to shop for locally grown flowers, corn, apples, tomatoes and pumpkins at a farmer's market operated by Angelo Caputo's Fresh Markets. Food will be sold by the pound and by the bushel.

Entertainment will be provided by Nino Folino, who will sing traditional Italian songs, and Marilyn Fredericks, who will give folk dancing lessons.

Vendors selling Italian items will include Rebecca's Boutique (Venetian jewelry and masks); Fankory Import Co. (Italian pottery and ceramics); and Gino Bartucci of La Bomboniera (World Cup soccer memorabilia and Italian music).

Mary Scalera will sell jams, marmalades and fresh fruit pies; and **Dominic Caneloro will sell Italian books and tapes.**

After harvesting is completed in Italy, it is time to sit around a big fire and eat. At the festa, there will be a pig roast at which six pigs will be prepared to perfection. Italian food items such as sausage and beef sandwiches, pizza, panzerotti, grilled octopus, ice cream and Italian ice will be sold. Angelo Caputo's Fresh Markets will sell food wine-making equipment and supplies, in addition to running the farmer's market. Turano's Bakery will donate to the Casa proceeds from its sale of cannolis, apple pies and bread. In keeping with the fall theme, roasted chestnuts and taffy apples will be available for purchase.

To add to the festive nature of the event, there will be competitions in bocce and scopa, a traditional Italian card game for up to six players, throughout the day, as well as hay rides, bubble jumpers, a slide, train and petting zoo for children.

A wine tasting, held in a separate tented area, will run from noon to 6 p.m. for a \$10 admission charge. Adults will have the opportunity to sample many kinds of wine. A celebrity grape stomp will take place at 1:45 p.m. and John Francese will demonstrate how to make wine at 2 p.m.

“The fall festival is a great way to promote our heritage and get children involved ,” Weber says.

A festival on this scale could not happen without the generosity of the Italian-American community.

The Italian American Civic Organization of Berwyn is underwriting the cost of two bubble jumpers, a slide and a petting zoo for the children, and the performance by Nino Felino.

**Jim Glimco of the *Italian American Executives of Transportation* will sell peaches in wine with the proceeds being donated to the Casa. *Italian American Executives of Transportation* will also sell water, pop and beer, with the proceeds going toward Scholarships, to be awarded at the 2006 Dinner Dance, as well as charitable and public service causes supported by the IAET. Vito D'Ambrosio, Guy Panico, Nick Lodato and other volunteers from the IAET will also assist in the set-up, Joe Caputo of the IAET will assist at the Bocce courts.**

**Vito D'Ambrosio and the IAET are also arranging to a display of new vehicles. Represented will be Dodge, Ford, Plymouth, Hummer, Chevy, Pontiac, Buick, Cadillac, and Saturn, to name a few.**

Weber says the festa will receive volunteer help from a number of organizations , including FIERI-Chicago, Giovani Pugliesi Association of Chicago, ARPA Giovanile, the Italian Club of Loyola University, the College of DuPage's Italian department, and Dominican University's Italian Club.

Organizers are hoping that this first Festa della Vendemmia will become an annual event. For more information or to participate as a vendor or volunteer, call 708-345-3842.