

Wine, food fest supports abused kids



Gloria Allred The seventh annual Calabasas/ Malibu Food & Wine Festival will donate a portion of proceeds from its June 22 event to Free Arts for Abused Children, a nonprofit organization that provides arts programming for kids who have experienced abuse and neglect.

Equal rights advocate Gloria Allred will receive a Spirit of Life Award for her ardent support of the 25-year-old Los Angelesbased charity.

Allred is best known for her work on behalf of victims such as the children and adult survivors of child sexual abuse as she strives to bring a voice to some of society's most defenseless and vulnerable members.

“Whether fighting for civil rights or against child abuse, Ms. Allred has exhibited a passion for justice that can only be attributed to the likes of monumental leaders in social change such as John Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., Ms. Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, and Eleanor Roosevelt,” said Alan Semsar, organizer of the annual food and wine fest.

Some 45 restaurants— including Bouchon Bistro, Pacific Dining Car, Saddle Peak Lodge and Gladstones—come together with wines, spirits and beers from local vintners such as Pacific Coast Vineyards, Spellman Family Vineyards, Cielo Malibu Estate Vineyards, Chocolate Shop Wine, Crispin Cider, Black Star Beer, Ninkasi Brewing and Crater Lake Vodka to support the month-long festival, which began last weekend in Malibu and shifts to Calabasas on June 22.

This year the Calabasas event returns to the rooftop of the Mercedes-Benz dealership on Calabasas Road. Separate tickets also are on sale for a Fri., June 21 kickoff party at the dealership. Both the Friday and Saturday events are from 7 to 10 p.m. A Saturday “after party” at Toscanova restaurant in the Calabasas Commons center also is planned.