

HOLIDAY CHEER IN SEDONA

SEDONA ABOUNDS WITH FUN AND FESTIVALS, AND THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS ESPECIALLY BUSY



RED ROCK FANTASY

November 18, 2010 - January 1, 2011. The 20th Annual Red Rock Fantasy, a festival of nearly one million lights and two dozen displays created by families from the Southwest, promises marvels that leave children in wonderment and move adults to enjoy the holidays as they did when they were young. It is a magic that can bring cartoon favorites to life, challenge children to scavenger hunts within the displays, or illuminate an undersea adventure—last year's winner. "Lights On" is at 5pm on Thursday, November 18, and "Lights Out" is on Saturday, January 1. The festival is open each evening (weather permitting) from 5-10pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 5-9pm Sunday through Thursday. Displays are built by families competing for a vacation ownership at Los Abridados and other ILX Properties. A "People's Choice" award is given based on ballots that event visitors fill out. The event benefits local charities and dozens of families. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$2 for children 5-12 and complimentary for children 4 and under. Blocks of 20 tickets or more are sold at a discounted rate of \$4 per person. For more information, call 928-282-1777 or toll free 800-521-3131.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

November 2 - December 5. The exciting Festival of Trees opens at the unique Tlaquepaque complex on Friday, November 26. Area artists and galleries will have over 30 Christmas trees fully decorated in fun and exquisite ways. Kick off your holiday season with a beautiful pre-decorated themed tree. Trees are on display on through

out the courtyards of Tlaquepaque, accompanied by silent auction bid sheets. Viewers may visit Tlaquepaque and check their bids through 4pm on Sunday, December 5. Proceeds will go to local charities. For more information contact Wendy Lippman at 928-282-4838.

HOLIDAY CONCERT AT TLAQUEPAQUE

December 10. Lead singers Ron Tolson and Bryan Pace, from the River of Life Tabernacle Choir, will help kick off this year's Festival of Lights with a free performance in the Chapel at Tlaquepaque Arts and Crafts Village on Friday, December 10, from 4-7pm. Taking place the day before the lighting of 6,000 Luminarias, this special concert will feature piano playing and vocals from a new CD featuring sacred hymns and holiday music. Tolson's melodic baritone has been described as "powerful" and "deeply moving." His music crosses age, ethnic and socioeconomic barriers. He has appeared in musical productions such as *Brother, Brother, Stop* and *Fiddler On The Roof*. He has recorded two albums and has been featured on a number of others. His most recent release, featuring pianist Pace, is *Hymns...Timeless*. The non-denominational Chapel at Tlaquepaque is one of the most special venues in Northern Arizona and boasts great acoustics. Primarily used for weddings or other private gatherings, this is a rare opportunity for the public to attend an event in this memorable location. Stained glass windows and hand-carved leather pews, a stunning mural over the altar, and whitewashed adobe walls make for a beautifully intimate setting. Contact Tlaquepaque at 928-282-4838 or www.tlaq.com.

PERSONALIZED LUMINARIAS

December 11. The Festival of Lights offers personalized luminarias in honor of cancer survivors or victims, on Saturday, December 11. The American Cancer Society will have a booth in the Patio del Norte, where you can purchase a special luminaria to honor a friend or family member who has had cancer, and your donation will go directly to the American Cancer Society. Each personalized luminaria is \$10, and you can light your own luminaria at 5pm during the Festival of Lights. You can also purchase a personalized luminaria in advance by calling the office at 928-282-4838 or online at www.tlaq.com.

SEDONA AND VERDE VALLEY WINE COUNTRY

The majority of area wineries are located on an easy loop through Cornville, while a few are located off the main arteries between local towns. There is even a tasting room located in the heart of Uptown Sedona, The Art of Wine, with wines from Sycamore Canyon Winery. Many restaurants in the area serve local wines, while wine tours and activities are becoming more widespread: "Water to Wine" kayak tours, jeep wine tours and more. The Verde Valley enjoys a long agricultural history. Early settler records mention hay sales to Fort Verde, cattle drives to Flagstaff, and produce sold to miners and smelters in Jerome and Clarkdale. Keeping the spirit of this abundant ranching and farming heritage, a new agricultural cottage industry of grape growing has cropped up in close proximity to Camp Verde. If you're headed to Sedona, make plans to stay awhile. ■

