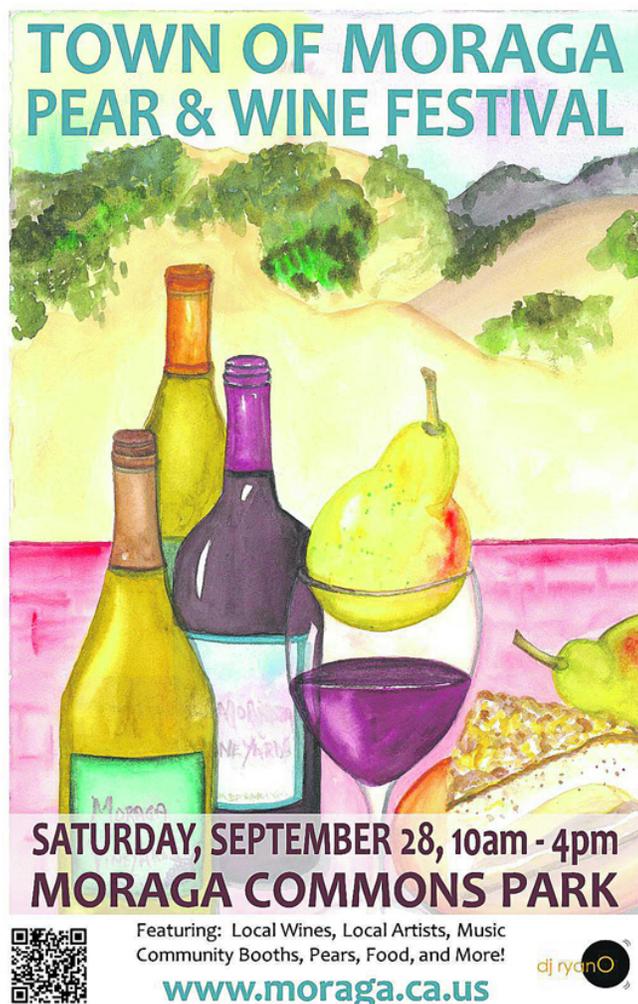


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Pear and Wine Festival Returns

By Sophie Braccini



Poster for the 2013 festival, designed by Loretta Barra.

Moraga's 15th Annual Pear and Wine Festival is this Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Moraga Commons Park from 10 a. m. to 4 p.m. The family-friendly event will include traditional games and jumpies for the kids, live music with DJ RyanO, wine tasting, pear pies, food tents and informational booths at which festival-goers can find out more about some of our local organizations.

The 2014 Pear and Wine Festival Poster Contest will also kick off on Saturday. This year competition's winner is artist and 15-year Orinda resident Loretta Barra. "I saw the announcement of the competition online and sent a proposal to the Parks and Recreation Department last September," she says. "It was really fun doing it and staff told me they really liked my colors when I brought my painting in." Barra knows Moraga's scenery well - she walks the Moraga/Lafayette trail five times a week and took an art class at the Hacienda de las Flores. The painter is also a real estate agent for Coldwell Banker in Orinda. "Art is the other thing in my life that makes me happy, and brings me peace and joy," she says. A member of the Watercolor Association, she sells her whimsical art online at www.Zazzle.com/ArtSweets, including original watercolors, prints, cards, inspired by nature around her and trips she takes, such as a winter in France from which she's brought back the very successful series 'Christmas in Paris.' "I also do watercolors for my colleagues when they have a house on the market, or when their clients leave their home and want to take something of the emotion with them," she adds.

The Pear and Wine Festival also features the ever-popular pear recipe contest where local cooks are encouraged to bring their savory or sweet creations to the park in 'peary' friendly competition.

The festival is presented by the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department and supported by a multitude of volunteers.

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