SAN DIEGO BAY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

THE <u>SAN DIEGO BAY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL</u> ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH <u>THE ECOLOGY CENTER</u> IN PURSUIT OF A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Sustainability is on the menu at the West Coast's most acclaimed culinary celebration with a partnership that identifies practices to protect the future of food and the environment

(San Diego / October 5, 2023) - In keeping with its perennial mission to recognize and elevate the biodiversity and innovation of San Diego and its surrounding regions, the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival is taking deliberate action to become better stewards to this dynamic community. In partnership with The Ecology Center, a 501c3 non-profit and a 28-acre Regenerative Organic Certified[™] farm and education center in San Juan Capistrano, the Festival is strengthening its commitment to environmental awareness and carrying this effort into the future. The Festival is also proud to recognize The Ecology Center as a financial beneficiary of this year's event and will donate a portion of overall ticket sales to the non-profit as part of its ongoing commitment to investing in future culinary trailblazers and their efforts.

"The innovative sustainability strategies at the heart of The Ecology Center's mission are both inspiring and necessary as we collectively consider the future of our ecosystems," says Festival Co-producer, Michelle Metter. "We are thrilled to partner with their team in exploring initiatives that will allow us to continue producing events that have a huge impact on our community, but not on our environment."

A hub for the nation's ecological movement and hailed as pioneers for providing creative yet achievable sustainability solutions, The Ecology Center is serving in an advisory capacity on practices for this year's festival, as well as identifying areas where the sustainable footprint can be improved going into 2024 and beyond. Fast Forward Events, the production team behind the Festival, will invite future attendees to join them in cultivating initiatives designed to support and protect the environment.

Jonathan Zaidman, Director of Engagement for The Ecology Center says, "We are proud to continue the tradition of partnership with culinary leaders and community. For 15 years, we've broken bread to signify the beauty, flavors, and diversity that come with ecological agriculture. We hope tasting the flavors of the season and geography inspire guests to participate at a higher level with their culinary decisions and practices."

For ticket information and the full festival schedule, please visit the festival <u>website</u> and follow along on Instagram: @sdbayfest.

The San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival is funded in part with City of San Diego Tourism Marketing District Assessment Funds.

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