



For Immediate Release **Contact: Thom Householder, Front Burner PR, LLC**
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**DAMARISCOTTA RIVER GRILL ANNOUNCES FULL SLATE
OF EXCITING JANUARY EVENTS**

***Wine Club Dinner, Local Art Event, and Maine Beers and Spirits Tasting
Continue Tradition of Local Involvement***

Damariscotta, ME – Damariscotta River Grill (www.damariscottarivergrill.com, 155 Main Street) today announced three exciting events planned for January which offer opportunities to learn about Italian wines, celebrate the life and work of a respected local artist, and sample excellent Maine beers.

- Damariscotta River Grill Wine Club Begins Its Third Year -

The popular Damariscotta River Grill Wine Club begins its 2008 season with a festive Italian-focused evening on **Thursday, January 17, at 6 pm.**

These fun-filled evenings are a hit with serious wine enthusiasts and novices alike. Certified Master Sommelier Ken Strup is the evening's special guest. He and the Grill's own Mark Guerin will lead guests through an evening of Italian wines, each paired with a special dinner course.

The Wine Club dinner is open to the public, costs \$35 for nonmembers, and reservations are recommended. Contact the Grill (563-2992) for reservations and information.

- Exhibit Remembers Area Artist -

The Maine Gallery of Art will honor the late Natalie Wriggins with a retrospective exhibit of some of her own work, and companion work by Maine Gallery of Art members, to be hung at the Damariscotta River Grill through February 18, 2008.

The Damariscotta River Grill launches this special exhibit with a reception on **Wednesday, January 23, from 4-6 pm.**

Natalie, the sister of Thomas Wriggins, III, of Newcastle, was a prolific pastel painter and water colorist who captured the gentle beauties of the natural settings of Maine.

Natalie's friends and companions-in-art from Maine Gallery of Art will be celebrating her legacy with examples of their own work, chosen to further reflect the vision that this fine artist brought to her work.

Most pieces will be available for purchase. The exhibit is being curated by Maine Art Gallery member Sylvia Kraemer. For more information, send an email to info@maineartgallery.org.

- Evening Showcases Maine Microbrews -

Enjoy an evening of Maine-made beers, along with other spirits, at the Damariscotta River Grill's Maine Microbrew and Spirits Tasting on **Thursday, January 24, from 5:30-8 pm.**

Locally crafted beers from D.L. Geary Brewing Company, Sebago Brewing Company, and Sheepscot Valley Brewing Company will be available, along with selected spirits, giveaways, and plenty of great Damariscotta River Grill food.

Tickets to the event are \$30, and reservations are recommended.

About the Damariscotta River Grill:

Since its successful launch in 2003, the Damariscotta River Grill has firmly established itself as a welcome addition to the coastal Maine dining scene. Owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Rick Hirsch (Executive Chef) and Jean Kerrigan (General Manager), the popular restaurant has been a favorite of locals, summer visitors and vacationing celebrities alike. Guests enjoy the restaurant's traditional Clam Chowder and its hearty Beef and White Bean Chili as much as its Maine Shrimp Bruschetta, fresh Lobster Cakes and succulent Pork Osso Buco. The restaurant is highly regarded for its impressive wine list as well, which features a variety of award-winning New and Old World varietals.

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