

Library Shelf Article
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Five hundred people can't be wrong.

For the last 15 years around Columbus Day, around 500+ people living in or near Columbus have attended a party filled with gourmet foods to sample, a variety of wines to taste, live music, unique things to buy, and lots of fun with friends and neighbors. In addition, those who attend help support the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and a local non-profit agency selected to co-host with the Chamber.

On October 11, you and 500 others can attend Taste of Columbus, to be held at the Columbus Ramada and River's Edge Convention Center starting at 4:30 PM. This year the Columbus Library Foundation will co-host Taste of Columbus and designate 100% of its share of the profits to the new Library/Cultural Arts Center to be built in downtown Columbus. Pre-event tickets can be purchased at the Columbus Chamber for \$35 each or \$50 at the door. When you purchase tickets, you receive a 20-page booklet with descriptions and the value of all items on the Royal Auction.

Besides all this, someone will be the lucky winner of a \$3,400 diamond necklace donated by McChristy Jewelers. Want to be that lucky winner? Purchase a raffle ticket the night of the event or buy them now in downtown Columbus at Sippo Espresso Bar, Chopper's Computers, Tooley Drug, Barbara Jeans, or Salon.cek.

The agenda will be a simple one: at 4:30 PM enter the main banquet area of the Columbus Ramada, sign up for a bid card, then find a seat at an open table or one reserved by your business or company. Open tables will have one color of table cloths and reserved tables will be covered in a different color. You'll then be ready to join the hundreds of people walking among the 14 food booths and the 9 wine vendors, filling their plates with gourmet treats created just for the evening's party. Don't forget to sample the wines. Which wine to choose? Just ask the wine stewards – they know the best tasting ones.

You can go back and fill your plate and wine glass as many times as you'd like.

Remember when I wrote Taste of Columbus was a fundraiser? Here's a way you can buy some of your Christmas gifts and at the same time donate to a good cause. From 4:30 to 6:30 PM one area of the banquet hall is dedicated to silent auction items. Walk around the tables checking out approximately 100 unique gifts. Find one? Write your bid number and the amount you want to pay for the item on the bid card lying nearby. Be sure to check back during the designated bid time to make sure you still have the top bid.

At 7:00 PM sharp the bid tables close and the Royal live auction begins. Professional auctioneers lead the crowd through the bidding process for around 50 bid packages valued between \$500 and \$3200. Last year's items included a NYC 4-day get-a-way, a new laptop computer, two days of unlimited golfing for a foursome at two 18-hole

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courses in the Nebraska Sand Hills plus one night's lodging, a selection of top cuts from a half processed hog, a set of new patio furniture and a round glass mosaic fire pit table, one annual family membership to the Columbus Family YMCA, gift cards for \$100 worth of groceries each month for one year, a family photograph session and one free 20 x 24 inch portrait, a spa day for you and 3 friends, and more. Buy your tickets early, so you can study the booklet and target the items you want to bid on.

This is a crazy fun event and it will help support two historical institutions in Columbus who exist to provide the quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Columbus and the surrounding area. Come be part of it.

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