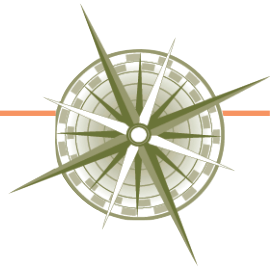


coast news entertainment



Wine, Waves and Beyond

By Teri Bayus

I love a new event that just speaks to the essences of what this area is all about. I found that in the innovative experience, Wine, Waves and Beyond. It is an event that pairs our love for surfing, lust for wine and great food offered by the area's best chefs. It also benefits one of my favorite charities, Association of Amputee Surfers (AmpSurf). I plan to go to all the events, but had the honor of seeing a screening of 180° SOUTH that is the crown jewel of the affair.

I was lucky to catch this movie in Los Angeles last week and it is inspiring!

180° SOUTH is the story of one of the most unique and prolific environmentalists of our time -Yvon Chouinard. 180° SOUTH weaves Chouinard's tale through a modern day expedition. This new expedition was inspired by the rumor of a legendary trip in 1968. When the lost cans of film that documented the trip were found, it was like a peek back to the start of everything that inspires us outdoors. The old footage captures Chouinard and his best friend Doug Tompkins in 1968 as they explore untouched mountain ranges and un-surfed coastline on a 5000-mile expedition from California to deep Patagonia. For the two men, the original '68 adventure still stands as "the trip of our lives."

A young American adventurer named Jeff Johnson happened upon the footage in 1999 and spent the next 10 years of his life dreaming of following their footsteps south. In 2007, Jeff dropped everything and hired director Chris Malloy to finally fulfill his dream. He set out to follow Chouinard's classic route on what became a six-month traverse of North and South America. His hope is simply to find unclimbed mountains and un-ridden waves in the spirit of his heroes. However, as he travels, his eyes open up to see the environmental disasters that threaten these places as well as the human triumphs that are working to save them.

From the start of the film, each scene seamlessly echoes back and forth between Jeff's modern day adventure and conversations happening in a century old stone cabin in deep Patagonia. The two men (Chouinard and Tompkins) cook the fish they have just caught on a wood-burning stove. Their hair is silver now and the lines on their faces speak volumes. They have been best friends and expedition partners for more than 50 years. They recount their lives with simple and humble narratives (all of which have achieved folkloric stature in the outdoor world). The stories come to life with classic archival footage and hand drawn animation (by artist Geoff McFetridge). Each story flows in-and-out of Jeff's.

This film won't disappoint surfing and climbing buffs; it

includes plenty of footage of both. But it speaks to a wider audience as an introspective travelogue. Part of what Johnson learns is to embrace the voyage's unpredictability and the opportunities inherent in its hardships. When the boat's mast snaps in half (a mournful experience that I have had the pleasure of experiencing), the group is forced to take a month long detour to Easter Island. There they meet Makohe, a Rapa Nui who joins them for the rest of the trip.

As the film progresses and Jeff picks up several more characters, each with their own unique views of the world, we realize that Jeff has been with the old men in the cabin the whole time. Asking the questions that have produced the stories and philosophies we see, we also come to find

out that we are on the eve of what could be the last big climb of their lives together (as they are both almost 70 now).

It was a great story and a fantastic movie to start off this new event. Wine, Waves and Beyond is a four-day experience that includes a surf film premiere of the documentary 180° South at the historic Fremont Theatre in SLO, along with a festive after-party at Downtown Brewery after the film.

Other events pair wine, waves, beer and art to bring together like-minded people to really enjoy what this area has to offer. From Beer and food pairings, great outdoor parties overlooking the gorgeous cliffs, the enchanting world of

Wine, Waves and Beyond: Central Coast Longboard Classic, June 3 to 6, 2010, will feature a series of events at scenic venues from Pismo Beach to Morro Bay.

At the "Barrel to Barrel" event on Friday at The Cliffs Resort, guests will enjoy wine, beer and food tasting underneath the summer sun. Local wine and beer vendors from across the county will be pouring, while restaurants will offer tasting of their delicious snacks. Along with the food and drinks to satisfy, local artists will have their work on display.

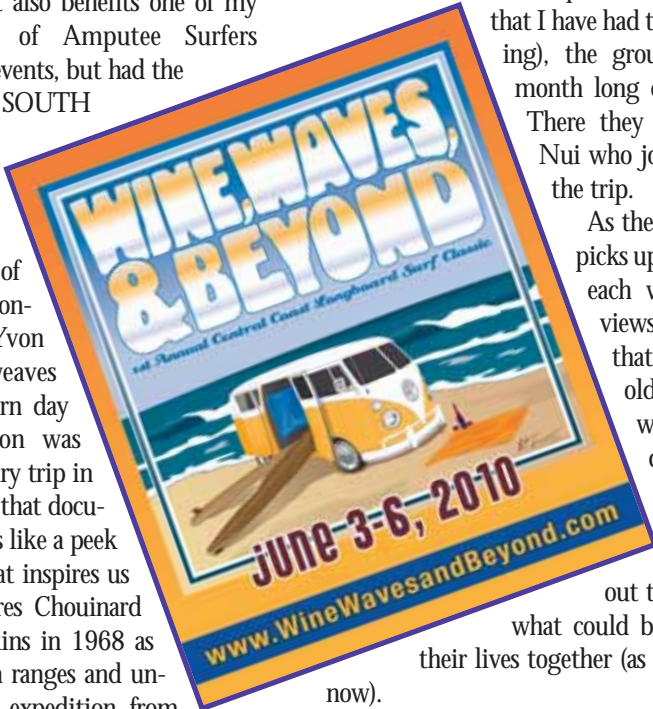
There will also be a five-course "Brew Master Dinner" at The Cliffs Resort, pairing handcrafted Firestone beers with amazing dishes prepared by executive chefs from four distinguished restaurants, including the Gardens of Avila, Marisol, Sea Venture, and Apple Farm. Not only will the Chefs prepare a delicious meal, but will auction themselves off. I plan to win all four! The highest auction bidder for each chef will have a meal prepared right in their very own home.

On Sunday in Pismo Beach, there will be a longboard competition for men and women, as well as an amputee surfer heat. There will also be a special surf contest—undoubtedly a first ever such event—just for winemakers and brew masters.

Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Association of Amputee Surfers (www.ampsurf.org), an organization that strives to promote, inspire, educate, and rehabilitate those with disabilities, especially veterans, through adaptive surfing and other fun and safe outdoor activities.

For a complete listing of events and more information, please visit www.winewavesandbeyond.com. See the movie, enjoy the events and maybe even learn to surf, what are you waiting for?

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