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## CHARLOTTESVILLE AND ALBEMARLE COUNTY: A FEAST FOR THE EYES, THE MIND, AND THE TASTE BUDS IN LATE FALL

This area is a wonderful choice for a late-fall getaway, with TEDx Charlottesville, the Virginia Film Festival, Cider Week Virginia, Artisans Studio Tour, and breathtaking fall foliage

**Charlottesville, Va. (October 30, 2017)** – The Charlottesville Albemarle Convention and Visitors Bureau (CACVB) invites everyone to consider the Charlottesville, Virginia area for a late-fall getaway. With plenty of events and activities, the epicenter of Virginia offers a multitude of options for recreation and entertainment.

There is still a little bit of time to partake in the celebrations surrounding **Virginia Wine Month**. There are more than 250 wineries across the beautiful state of Virginia, with a large concentration of them located within a 30-mile radius around Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Virginia Wine Month features a large number of wine-centric special events taking place daily! For more information and a calendar of events, visit <u>www.virginiawine.org/october-wine-month</u>. There is also still time to participate in **Virginia Artisan Month** in central Virginia. Visitors can travel the Monticello Artisan Trail which meanders through picturesque Albemarle & Nelson Counties with dozens of artisans featured along the way. For more information, visit <u>www.artisanscenterofvirginia.org</u>.

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual **TEDx Charlottesville** event will be held at the historic Paramount Theater on **November 3rd** in partnership with the CFA Institute and the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. The conference will include a wide array of speakers and performers. "For the second year running, CFA Institute and TEDxCharlottesville are partnering to bring 'ideas worth spreading' to our vibrant and innovative city," said Kelli Palmer, Director of Corporate Citizenship at CFA Institute. "CFA Institute is proud to support TEDxCharlottesville as we spark creativity, promote insight, and share wonder throughout the local community." Tickets to the full-day conference and information about this event are available at <u>http://tedxcharlottesville.com/</u>.

Back for the 30th consecutive year, the **2017 Virginia Film Festival** returns to Charlottesville from **November 9-12**, highlighted by a diverse program featuring more than 150 films, and an outstanding array of special guests including Academy Award-winning filmmakers Spike Lee and Ezra Edelman, Emmy Award-winning actor William H. Macy, and noted author Margot Lee Shetterly. The 2017 Virginia Film Festival guest list will include more than 100 filmmakers in all, representing a diverse program illustrating the broad spectrum of cinema, from some of the most acclaimed titles on the current festival scene, to fascinating documentaries, timeless classics, and exciting new discoveries that cover some of the most important and widely-discussed topics in the world today. Family Day, set for **Saturday, November 11** on the Betsy and John Casteen Arts Grounds at the University of Virginia, will feature screenings of *The Aristocats* and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone,* plus interactive arts workshops. For the complete VFF program, please visit <u>www.virginiafilmfestival.org</u>.

Later in November, **Cider Week Virginia** will kick-off its 5<sup>th</sup> edition, which will be held from **November 10 - 19**. During Cider Week Virginia, restaurants, shops and cider makers from across the state will hold dinners, in-store tastings, workshops and classes promoting Virginia cider. Virginia is the first state to have an officially proclaimed "Cider Week," and this is only the second weeklong cider celebration in the United States. The cider celebration includes dozens of special events taking place

at various locations across Virginia, with several occurring in Charlottesville and the surrounding area. All the details can be found at <u>www.ciderweekva.com</u>.

The **Artisans Studio Tour** will once again take place this year on **November 11 & 12**. For one weekend every fall, artisans in central Virginia open their doors for you to explore their working spaces. Featuring 45 artisans at 24 different studios over the course of two days, see where the artisans create, learn why they create, and examine how they create. It is a fun, unique opportunity and a great way to spend a fall weekend. This tour is self-guided, free and open to the public. Each studio on the Tour provides locally-sourced refreshments. More information about this event is available at <u>www.artisanstudiotour.com</u>.

Fall foliage has gotten off to a bit of a late start this year, which is ultimately great news for leaf peepers everywhere, as the dazzling display of colors will be extended into November! Charlottesville and Albemarle County offer some of the most **spectacular autumnal landscapes** in the country, with the peak of fall foliage season rapidly approaching. The Shenandoah National Park Fall Color Report provides a weekly status on the evolution of the fall foliage in the SNP. Charlottesville is located only 26 miles from the Rockfish Gap entrance to the Shenandoah National Park, which is a unique location to enjoy this colorful season either by foot with a crisp hike or relaxing drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway. For more information, please visit <u>www.nps.gov/shen</u>.

## About the Charlottesville Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau (CACVB):

In addition to serving as the global resource for marketing the tourism assets of <u>Charlottesville</u> and <u>Albemarle County</u>, Virginia, through <u>www.visitcharlottesville.org</u>, the CACVB assists tour operators, meeting planners, reunions and other groups in planning visits to the destination. CACVB's mission is "to enhance the economic prosperity of City and County by promoting, selling and marketing the City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle, as a destination, in pursuit of the meetings and tourism markets." CACVB operates the <u>Downtown Visitor Center (610 E Main St</u>) which is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and a second visitor center, the <u>Albemarle Tourism and Adventure Center</u> in downtown Crozet (<u>5791 Three Notch'd Rd</u>) at the historic train depot; it is open Wednesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday Noon - 5:00 p.m. The CACVB also provides a touch-screen kiosk at Monticello's Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center. The official website of the CACVB is <u>www.visitcharlottesville.org</u>. In addition, the organization manages powerful social media channels; ExperienceCharlottesville on Facebook, @VisitCVille on Twitter, CVilleVA on Pinterest, and @CharlottesvilleVA on Instagram and Vimeo.

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