

Don't-Miss Fall Events

Written by Christine Whitton

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As the temperature drops and the seasons slowly begin to change (well, we can pretend), our social calendars begin to fill as the holiday season approaches. From races to wine tastings, below are a few events we think are worthy of penciling in.

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure



On Sunday, Oct. 10, family and friends will gather in Downtown Phoenix for the 18th Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Participants, primped in pink, will run, walk and cheer for all those who are forging the fight or have beaten the battle. The organization hopes to raise more than \$2 million for future breast cancer treatment and education. www.komenphoenix.kintera.org.

Uncorked & Unplugged



Align your Sunday shopping with Uncorked & Unplugged at Desert Ridge Marketplace on Oct. 17. Benefiting the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Scottsdale, the casual culinary get-together is celebrating the best in gourmet foods (from Blue Martini to Wally's America Pub 'n Grill), fine wine and spirits, and live entertainment. www.uncorkedandunplugged.org.

Crave AZ 2010



Foodies prep your taste buds for the 3rd annual Crave AZ cookout. Sponsored by the Savory Scottsdale Group and overlooking Scottsdale's picturesque waterfront, 20 restaurants (and their culinary teams) have joined in to celebrate the Valley's diverse flavors in a three-day (Oct 22-24) outdoor culinary extravaganza. For tickets, visit www.cravearizona.com.

Scottsdale Fashion Week



For most fashionistas the wait is long overdue. The weekend of Nov. 4-6, models will hit the runway to showcase some of this year's hottest looks. From Angela Johnson to Tory Burch and sequined cocktail dresses to sophisticated one-of-a-kind pieces, trendsetters will be treated to star-studded evenings of fanciful fun. For tickets, visit www.scottsdalefashionweek.com.

ZooLights

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Beginning Nov. 25, the Phoenix Zoo, in partnership with SRP, will flip the switch on more than three million holiday lights. The colorful collection of twinkle lights will unveil the zoo's animal-like figures and holiday decorations. Each year, thousands of families brave the cool desert nights to venture through the holiday spectacular, listen to holiday music and drink hot cocoa. For some families, it is the Valley's official kick-off to Christmas. www.phoenixzoo.org.

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park



All aboard! Starting Dec. 10 with the lighting of the park's Christmas tree and a magical appearance by Santa Claus, this family-owned and -operated park goes all out for the holidays by creating a winter wonderland. Adorned with thousands of twinkle lights, families board the park's kid-sized Paradise and Pacific Railroad and ride around the park viewing the holiday spectacular. Park hours are from 6:30 to 9 pm nightly except on Dec. 24, 25 and 31. Tickets are \$2 per ride. The event ends Jan. 1. 480.312.2312, www.therailroadpark.com.