



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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December 8, 2008

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Hi-Rez Photos Available—please enquire!

2008 Solvang Julefest Parade Winners Announced

Solvang, California, USA –On Saturday morning, December 6, 2008, Solvang’s annual Julefest Parade rolled, strolled, trotted, hopped and meandered through village streets. This year’s theme was “Village of Lights.” Thousands of spectators from near and as far away as Milan, Italy, enjoyed sunny skies and temperatures in the 70 degree range while watching 48 parade entrants—including Solvang resident & Gold Medal Olympian partners Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser as Grand Marshals—along with local groups, bands and Santa & Mrs. Claus (who landed their sleigh in Solvang Park following the hour-long parade).

The Julefest Parade and all Julefest events are sponsored by the Solvang Conference & Visitors Bureau under the leadership of Executive Director Tracy Farhad supported by the City of Solvang and dozens of local businesses. Shannon Hazard served as Parade Coordinator and Laura Kath was Parade Announcer. Area residents Ron Walsh and Bill Morton served as volunteer judges for this year’s parade. Julefest Event Producer Mary Harris is pleased to announce “Awards of Distinction” for the following parade participants (who will be receiving their awards later this month):



Best Overall Entry: Cielo Celeste Farm

Becca Stewart (beautifully attired as a Christmas angel) rode Huston, a Gypsy Cob Stallion.

Best Float: Solvang Community Christmas Pageant

Santa Ynez Valley area churches unite to bring the miracle of Christmas to life at the annual Nativity Pageant (to be held this year on Friday, December 13 at Solvang Festival Theater).

Best Equestrian Entry: Shelbi Ranch Riders

This magnificent and magnanimous group raises funds for the Shiners' Hospital for Children.

Best Vehicle Entry: Santa Barbara County Sherriff's Department Restored Vintage Paddy Wagon

Deputies locked up "The Grinch" this year.

Best Musical Entry: Santa Ynez Valley Jazz Band

Open to all kids in the Valley, the band is comprised of students from six schools between 2nd to 12th grades.

Best Performance Group: Gymnastics North

Kids from all around the Valley demonstrated their cartwheels, jumps and flips under the direction of Gene Johnson. Classes are held through Buellton and Solvang Recreation Departments.

Best Theme Oriented (Village of Lights): The Ranch Church

The Ranch Church is a Calvary Chapel church whose goal is to love and serve the Santa Ynez Valley.

Many open houses, holiday musicals, and special events will be taking place through January 9, 2009. For more information and a printed *2008 Julefest (Winterfest) Program*, please visit www.SolvangUSA.com