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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHARLOTTESVILLE & ALBEMARLE COUNTY
FEATURE AN ARRAY OF FESTIVALS THIS SPRING**
*Virginia Festival of the Book, Dogwood Festival, Tom Tom Founders Festival,
Taste of Monticello Wine Trail, Foxfield Spring Races, Historic Garden Week
& Festival of Cultures getting ready to engage locals and visitors alike*

Charlottesville, March 21, 2014 – Charlottesville and Albemarle County will feature a great selection of local festivals in the upcoming weeks. These festivals will celebrate everything from books, innovation and wine to flowers, steeple chase races and gardens. Here are some of these events not to be missed.

Celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year, the **Virginia Festival of the Book** brings together writers and readers and to promote and celebrate books, reading, literacy, and literary culture. As the largest gathering of authors, writers, and readers in the Commonwealth, and, indeed, the Mid-Atlantic region, this festival's programs range from traditional author readings and book signings to a StoryFest day of children's authors and storybook characters; from a panel on how to publish a novel to a discussion on running a book club; from a workshop on book-binding to a discussion on freelancer's rights. All programs are open to the public; with the exception of a few ticketed events, programs are free of charge. The Virginia Festival of the Book will take place **March 19 through 23**. <http://www.vabook.org/index.html/>

Tom Tom Founders Festival returns in 2014 as the gathering of the year for inventors, creatives, and entrepreneurs in the Mid-Atlantic. The five days of mostly free performances, workshops, and fun will draw innovators nationwide to Charlottesville from **April 9 through 13**, transforming the city's picturesque Downtown Mall into a teeming hub for multi-disciplinary innovation and creativity. Tom Tom gathers leaders from many fields in this year's programming, including music, art, food, entrepreneurship, technology, energy, health, education and law. <http://tomtomfest.com/>

The **Dogwood Festival** is a staple event that celebrates the arrival of spring in a big way, **April 10 through 27**. Featuring an array of events such as a pageant, parade, concert and a long-awaited carnival, this Festival is named in honor of the official flower of the state of Virginia. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the Charlottesville Dogwood Festival. <http://www.charlottesvilledogwoodfestival.org/>

The third edition of the **Taste of Monticello Wine Trail Festival** offers wine enthusiasts a celebration of the best of Central Virginia wines. This year, the Festival has expanded to include various wine focused events over a 3 days span, from **April 10 through 13**. These events include the Monticello Cup Awards at The Jefferson Theater, winery visits & wine dinners, and a tasting event at the nTelos Wireless Pavilion, in the heart of Downtown Charlottesville. Featuring 25 local wineries, this event gives visitors the opportunity to taste a vast variety of local wines, all under one roof. Special VIP packages are available. <http://monticellowinetrailfestival.com/>

A true Charlottesville tradition not to be missed is the **Foxfield Spring Races**, which will be held on **Saturday, April 26**. For over 30 years The Foxfield Racing Association has provided a beautiful setting for the equestrian sport of steeple chasing. The alluring but challenging Foxfield course was designed to attract Thoroughbred owners and trainers, and to provide the jockey and his mount with a beautiful ride over rolling lush green turf. <http://foxfieldraces.com/spring.cfm>

The beginning of **Historic Garden Week** dates to 1927, when a flower show organized by the Garden Club of Virginia raised an impressive \$7,000 to save some of the trees planted by Thomas Jefferson on the lawn at Monticello. Today, The Garden Club of Virginia operates as a non-profit organization comprised of 47 member clubs and 3,400 volunteers. Garden lovers are invited to take part in the many activities scheduled during Historic Garden Week, **April 26 through May 3**. All proceeds from this event go toward the restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic public gardens. It is not to be missed! <http://www.vagardenweek.org/index.cfm>

The **Festival of Cultures**, which celebrates the cultural and linguistic diversity of our local community, will take place on **May 10**. It is a day of free family-friendly fun with all-day entertainment: music, dance, song, and storytelling. Enjoy hands-on cultural crafts activities, visit cultural exhibits, food, and artisan vendors at Lee Park, Downtown Charlottesville. <http://www.festivalofcultures.org/>

The Charlottesville area comes alive, throughout the year, with countless festivals, special events, concerts and more. The official destination website offers a complete calendar of events at <http://www.visitcharlottesville.org/visitors/calendar-of-events/>.

About the CACVB

In addition to providing a wealth of information on the area to individual visitors, the CACVB assists tour operators, meeting planners, reunions and other groups to find attractions, restaurants, hotels, and other visitor related businesses. Its 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."

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