



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Greater Wilmington CVB, 800-489-6664; Southern Delaware Tourism, 800-357-1818; or Kent County Delaware CVB, 800-233-5368. Photos available upon request.

**Santa Shops in Delaware!**

**FALL AND HOLIDAY FESTIVALS AND TAX-FREE HOLIDAY SHOPPING MAKE DELAWARE A GREAT DESTINATION**

DELAWARE – Centrally located within close proximity to several metropolitan areas in the Mid-Atlantic Region, Delaware proves to be a great travel destination during fall and holiday season with its festivals, tax-free shopping and dining and discounts on lodging statewide.

Even though Delaware is the second smallest state, it still has a unique place in history as the First State, because it was the first to ratify the U.S. Constitution. Its three unique areas include the Metro Region, Greater Wilmington and New Castle County; the Capital Region, Greater Dover and Kent County; and the Beach Region, the Delaware beaches and Sussex County. From top to bottom, Delaware is easily traveled – it is less than 100 miles from north to south.

Here are some of the fall and holiday festivals taking place in Delaware:

- **Lewes Boast the Coast Maritime Weekend** – Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5, enjoy the Boast the Coast Maritime Festival and Lighted Boat Parade on Saturday and the University of Delaware’s Coast Day on Sunday. For information, 877-465-3937 or [www.ocean.udel.edu/coastday](http://www.ocean.udel.edu/coastday).
- **Societa da Vinci Vendemmia Wine Festival** – Sunday, October 12, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m (raindate: Sunday, October 19). Celebrate the harvest of grapes! Sample wine and food from the area’s top restaurants and enjoy great entertainment at Wilmington’s Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park. Admission. For information, 866-771-3014 or visit [www.societadavinci.com](http://www.societadavinci.com).
- **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Rehoboth Beach Autumn Jazz Festival** – Wednesday, October 15 through Sunday, October 20, one of the most sought after ticketed jazz festival events in the United States because of intimate venues and performer interaction. Featuring The Neville Brothers and The Drifters. For information, 800-29-MUSIC or [www.rehobothjazz.com](http://www.rehobothjazz.com).
- **Diamond State BBQ Championship** – Saturday, October 18, Join nearly 100 barbecue experts as they compete for the championship; food, vendors and live music. Also check out the “Big Boys Toy Show” featuring cars, motorcycles, RVs and more. Dover Downs Hotel and Casino, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., admission. For information, 800-711-5882 or [www.doverdowns.com](http://www.doverdowns.com).
- **Hagley’s Craft Fair** – Saturday, October 18, and Sunday, October 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hagley’s Annual Craft Fair attracts the Mid-Atlantic Area’s most talented artisans to Wilmington to demonstrate, display and sell fine arts and crafts. Works in wood, pottery, jewelry, fibers, metal and other media are featured during this premier craft show. Admission. For information, (302) 658-2400 or [www.hagley.org](http://www.hagley.org).

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- **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Sea Witch Halloween & Fiddlers Festival** – Friday, October 24 through Sunday October 26, costume parade, trick or treat with the merchants, pet parade, children's games, fiddlers contest, hayrides and more. Downtown Rehoboth Beach. For information, 800-441-1329, ext. 12 or [www.beach-fun.com](http://www.beach-fun.com).
- **World Championship Punkin Chunkin** – Friday, October 31 through Sunday, November 2, famous annual event – pumpkins are hurled for the world championship title, fall festival and concerts. Bridgeville, DE. For information, 302-684-8196 or [www.punkinchunkin.com](http://www.punkinchunkin.com).
- **Delaware Book Festival** – Saturday, November 1, nation, regional and local authors and illustrators will be on hand to discuss their work and sign books; writers' workshops and children's activities round out the day. Free admission, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Legislative Mall, Federal Street, Dover. [www.debookfestival.lib.de.us](http://www.debookfestival.lib.de.us).
- **Annual Festival of Trees** – Friday, November 21 through Sunday, November 23, the Festival of Trees will light up Dover Downs Hotel and Casino and raise money and awareness for a good cause, Delaware Hospice. Free admission, 800-711-5882 or [www.doverdowns.com](http://www.doverdowns.com).
- **Winterthur's Yuletide** – Saturday, November 22 through Sunday, January 4, view the elegant interiors of the du Pont mansion bedecked in holiday finery and be inspired by dazzling holiday dining and entertaining displays. Each day of Yuletide offers an abundance of wintertime cheer, from concerts and how-to demos to family activities and shopping. Come for the tour and stay for the day! Admission. For information, 800-448-3883 or [www.winterthur.org](http://www.winterthur.org)
- **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Rehoboth Beach Independent Film Festival** – Wednesday, November 5 through Sunday, November 9, Film and video screenings, opening and closing parties, seminars, and workshops. Show times vary. Locations throughout Rehoboth Beach. For information, 302-645-9095 or [www.rehobothfilm.com](http://www.rehobothfilm.com).
- **Chocolate Festival Weekend** – Friday, November 28 through Sunday, November 30, all things chocolate, holiday gifts and musical entertainment at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino, free, Friday, noon until 8 p.m.; Saturday, noon until 7 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, 800-711-5882 or [www.doverdowns.com](http://www.doverdowns.com).

For more information on travel to the Greater Wilmington/Brandywine Valley Area, contact Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-489-6664 or visit [www.VisitWilmingtonDE.com](http://www.VisitWilmingtonDE.com); for information on Southern Delaware, contact Southern Delaware Tourism, 800-357.1818 or visit [www.visitsoutherndelaware.com](http://www.visitsoutherndelaware.com); and for information on Delaware's Capital Region, contact Kent County Delaware Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-233-5368 or [www.visitdover.com](http://www.visitdover.com).

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