



**Cochise Graham Wine
Council, Inc.
Willcox Wine Country
Partnership**

ARIDUS WINE COMPANY
BIRDS & BARRELS VINEYARDS
BODEGA PIERCE
CARLSON CREEK VINEYARDS
CORONADO VINEYARDS
GOLDEN RULE VINEYARDS
KEELING SCHAEFER
VINEYARDS
KIEF-JOSHUA VINEYARDS
PILLSBURY WINE COMPANY
ZARPARA VINEYARD

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Ruth Graham- Treasurer
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Barb Pierce-Capital Projects
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Lisa Strid-AVA Development
Mark Phillips-Downtown
Mike Pigford- Events/Marketing
Scott Curtis-Brand Manager
Connie Macari-Charitable Giving
Mike Barnacastle-Photographer
John Ormond-Publisher
Chef Ken Foy-Catering
Kurt Roark-Billboards
Jeff Pierce-Television
Carlos DeLeon-Signage

www.willcoxwinecountry.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2019

Formation of the Cochise Graham Wine Council, Inc Willcox Wine Country Partnership

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The members of the Willcox Wine Country Partnership, formerly a committee of the Willcox Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, have formed a new private, non-profit corporation.

"First, It has been a great 10 years! When we conducted our first meeting in 2009, we were not sure any of us could see the future for our regional wine group. After starting our first festival with 4 wine booths under a tree in Railroad Park to becoming the largest and most loved wine festival in Arizona, the WWC Partners have made tremendous progress with the Chamber as our parent organization." (Rod Keeling, Keeling Schaefer Vineyards.)

As was first envisioned by a resolution of the Chamber Board back in 2009, the Chamber anticipated that the WWC Partnership would grow and evolve eventually to be a stand-alone, self-governed separate organization. The WWC Partners met earlier this year and the decision was reached to form the new organization.

The Cochise Graham Wine Council, Inc. will apply for IRS status as a 501C(5) organization, an Agricultural Trade Association. This new organization will be directed by the current and future partners of Willcox Wine Country that will conduct and manage all facets of the events and marketing plan for the promotion of the Willcox AVA and other Cochise and Graham Counties' wine growing areas located within the Willcox and San Simon Water Basins.

"We look forward to continue working with the Chamber as well as the City of Willcox, the Cochise and Graham county governments and many other public and private partners to position Willcox and our region as the center of wine in the Southwest." (Barb Pierce, Bodega Pierce.)

The Willcox Wine Country Spring Festival will welcome more than 5,000 wine patrons and quests to Railroad Park, May 17-19, 2019