



## NEWS RELEASE

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### *Idlewild & SoakZone's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Italian Day Festa has Great Food, Entertainment and Fireworks to Boot International Recording Artist ALFIO, "The Voice of Passion" Headlines Showcase of Italian Stars*

LIGONIER, PA – August 10, 2009 — Idlewild & SoakZone's (<http://www.idlewild.com>) 15<sup>th</sup> annual Italian Day Festa sponsored by the Westmoreland Columbus 500 (<http://www.westmorelandcolumbus500.com>) is Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. This special Italian heritage celebration – one of the largest in America - is for all Italian-Americans and those who would like to be!

This year's headliner [ALFIO](http://www.alfiomusic.com/index.php) (<http://www.alfiomusic.com/index.php>) is a huge superstar overseas whose debut album **Tranquillità** released on Warner Music Australia achieved Top 10 album status and Top 20 on the ARIA charts. This international heartthrob, known as "The Voice of Passion" has graced stages all over the world singing English, Italian and Spanish classics, contemporary songs and Italian folk songs and is modern throwback to the crooners to which he is often compared. Australian Superstar ALFIO is back with a new album, **Classic Rewinds** now available on iTunes. Considered one of the greatest voices in contemporary music today, ALFIO's new album pays tribute to artists who have influenced him and his passion for music including Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Bon Jovi and more!

In addition to ALFIO, this *Italian Festa* day features great Italian food, entertainment and celebrities such as:

- **Italian Specialty Food Vendors:** Rizzo's Malabar Inn, Aroma Italiano, Paradise Catering, Felicia's Italian Restaurant, desserts by Joyce's Italian Cookies and a full service, and a mobile espresso bar by Sheetz Brothers' Coffeez
- **Italian Entertainers:** ALFIO, John Bigante, The Cavaliers, Egidio Faiella, Mirella "The Musician" Volpe, Jimmy Sapienza & Five guys Named Moe, The Vogues with WCNS Radio, Story Book Forest's Gepetto; and the "Pupa Doll!"
- **Italian Wrestling Greats:** Meet and Greet Bill Cardille (WJAS-AM 1320AM Radio) for a "Studio Wrestling Reunion" with World Champion Bruno Sammartino, Jumpin' Johnny DeFazio and Battling Chuck Martoni.
- **Fireworks Show.** At 10:00 p.m. (weather permitting) a spectacular Fireworks Show will complete the day.

Discount tickets are available for \$19.00 and must be purchased in advance online at <http://www.idlewild.com> or at various locations throughout Allegheny and Westmoreland County listed on Idlewild Park's Web site. Tickets purchased at Idlewild's Main Gate on the day of the event are \$28.99 and free for children two years of age and under.

**ABOUT ALFIO – THE VOICE OF PASSION.** Sydney native ALFIO is reminiscent of a young Dean Martin whose old-world charm and confident swagger offers is modern throwback to the crooners to which he is often compared. ALFIO, "The Voice of Passion" is also an accomplished musician, composer and songwriter and has graced stages all over the world singing English, Italian and Spanish classics, contemporary songs and Italian folk songs. For more information visit [ALFIO'S Web site](http://www.alfiomusic.com/index.php) here <http://www.alfiomusic.com/index.php> and view [ALFIO's video performance reel](http://tinyurl.com/mb7b46) here <http://tinyurl.com/mb7b46>.

**ABOUT WESTMORELAND COLUMBUS 500.** The Westmoreland Columbus 500 was established in October 1992, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America. As an Italian-American non-profit association, its members are committed to the preservation of Italian culture and heritage in honor of ancestors who immigrated to the United States and settled in Westmoreland County. For more information visit <http://www.westmorelandcolumbus500.com>.

**ABOUT IDLEWILD & SOAKZONE.** Founded in 1878 as a simple picnic ground along the Ligonier Valley Rail Road, Idlewild & SoakZone is the oldest amusement park in Pennsylvania and third-oldest in America. In addition, it is rated the second best kid's park in the world by *Amusement Today* magazine (<http://www.amusementtoday.com>) and one of the top five family amusement parks in the world by the National Amusement Park Historical Association (<http://www.napha.org/>). Idlewild features seven fun theme areas such as SoakZone Waterpark, Story Book Forest and Mister Rogers' Neighborhood of Make-Believe. Seasonal operations run through Labor Day and "Hallowboo," a Halloween-themed event, takes place in October. Idlewild is part of the Palace Entertainment family of parks that hosts over 14 million visitors annually at five theme parks, two animal parks, 10 waterparks, and 21 family entertainment centers. Palace Entertainment is part of the Parques Reunidos family of parks. For more information, call 724.238.3666 or visit <http://www.idlewild.com> and <http://www.palaceentertainment.com>.