HUNTER VALLEY BURNING OF THE VINES

Celebrated during vintage in European vineyards since ancient times, the *Burning of the Vines* ritual celebrates the end of the current vintage grape harvest and pruning of the vines. These cuttings are then incinerated in huge bonfires to symbolise rebirth. As part of the *Hunter Valley Burning of the Vines* celebration, local conference hotels are offering this unique experience to conference delegates during the winter months.

To embellish the *Burning of the Vines* experience further, consider adding a local character and/or activity and let Hunter Valley Events take care of the details.

WINEMAKER

A winemaker from one of the Hunter's leading wineries will talk about the tradition of the Burning of the Vines; guests can then symbolically burn their own experiences from the past year, and ignite their goals for the next.

The winemaker will chat about the Hunter Valleys major wine varieties along with an overview of the 2017 vintage. Guests can also have the opportunity to taste and purchase wine.

HARVEST GAMES, THEMING & MUSIC

Conference groups are invited to participate in engaging Hunter Valley wine related activities such as Wine Evaluation tasting games, Grape Tossing, Wine Spitting and even Grape Stomping! To ramp things up a little why not add a bit of Wine Country theming and a great local band to get your guests up and dancing!

STORYTELLER

Enjoy story time with 'The Drover' - a highly awarded local Bush Poet, as he gathers all around the fire to recite a few highly entertaining Australian bush poems.

Or for a unique cultural experience, observe a traditional Indigenous ceremony; a Storytelling experience , expressed through timeless songs and dances.

RHYTHM & FIRE

The heartbeat of the Hunter will be heard through the vines as the group gather around the fire to the beat of their own drum ... then learn how to come together as one united orchestra. The magical rhythm of a ceremonious fireside drumming performance provides a together moment for all tribes - large and small.