



## WWW.VINESOLUTIONS.COM

Vine Solutions is excited to announce the launch of our new updated and optimized website, [www.vinesolutions.com](http://www.vinesolutions.com)! This new site still contains the old links and information while providing a new layout and design for better usability. The Vine Online and Vine Docs links are located on the homepage labeled client login in the upper right hand corner for easy accessibility. New features include an Ask the Expert Section as well as updated links and articles. Please let us know what you think of the new site!

### IRS AUDITS INCREASE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES:

In these trying economic times, Federal, State and Local governments are looking for ways to increase their revenue streams. What does that mean for restaurant owners? **More audits.** All government entities have increased staffing so that they can perform more audits in 2009 and 2010. For restaurants this will mean more Federal audits for tip compliance, more state audits for sales tax and labor compliance issues, and more local city property tax audits. Should you receive an audit notice from a government entity, please contact your Vine Solutions rep and we will assist you with the information needed to accommodate your audit.

### ATTENTION SAN FRANCISCO RESTAURANTS:

#### Service Charge Taxes:

For those San Francisco restaurants adding a service charge to their check to offset San Francisco healthcare costs, please take note of this [Special Notice from the State Board of Equalization](#) stating that those charges are taxable. If you have any questions as to whether you are compliant with this mandate, please contact your Vine Solutions client rep.

#### Commuter Benefits:

As of January 19, 2009, San Francisco employers with 20 or more employees, have been required to offer a commuter benefits program for their employees. This program has been formed to encourage employees to use public transit and/or vanpools. As an employer, there are three choices for providing this benefit:

- 1) Employer can pay for workers' transit fares.
- 2) Employer can offer company-funded shuttle service.
- 3) Employer can set up a deduction program allowing employees to use up to \$115 in pretax wages for transit.

If you are interested in the last choice, Vine Solutions can set up the commuter check deductions through ADP. Non-compliance with the ordinance may result in a fine. For more information please view [commuterbenefits.org](http://commuterbenefits.org), or contact your payroll specialist.

### Share our Strength's Taste of the Nation Los Angeles

June 14th at Culver City Media Park

By Elissa Phillips, Director of So. CA Operations

Share our Strength's Taste of the Nation Los Angeles is on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Culver City Media Park. This will be my fifth year on the committee, and my third year as the co-Chair. The mission of Share our Strength is to end childhood hunger in the United States by 2010. The amount of support for this event has grown tremendously over the past few years with \$85,000 raised in 2006, over \$140,000 in 2007, and over \$225,000 last year in 2008. This year, with the current economic environment, we plan to at least meet last year's net amount raised, but are hopeful we can exceed that figure given the robust marketing campaign we've launched, the viral ticket selling efforts and the better than ever Silent and Live Auctions. Many of our Los Angeles clients support Taste of the Nation. Come join me on June 14<sup>th</sup> and have the chance to sample the food and drink of clients including: Grace, BLD, Wilshire, LAMILL, Locanda del Lago, AKA-SHA and STREET. More information on Share our Strength and Taste of the Nation can be found at [www.tasteofthenationla.org](http://www.tasteofthenationla.org).

### **Vine Solutions will be closed:**

Monday, July 6th - Independence Day

### From the AP Department

#### Envelope Policy:

Previously, we have included envelopes in your check packet that gets mailed back weekly. However, going forward, we will be shipping you a packet of envelopes that should last you around a month. Please keep these in your office to send out with checks at your disclosure. It will be up to you to let your AP Processor know if you are getting low on envelopes and we will send you another pack.

#### Reminder about Weekly Packs:

- Alphabetize invoices and sort by date.
- Invoices for the prior week bound together.
- Older invoices bound separately.
- Invoices, Daily Sales, Payroll, and other documents separated.

This will help to make our process here at Vine Solutions both smooth and efficient. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

### OUTLOOK IMPROVED FOR RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

A recent report released by the National Restaurant Association outlines the improved outlook for the restaurant industry over the last few months. According to the Restaurant Performance Index (RPI), the health and outlook of the industry was up 0.8 percent from March to April which is the highest it's been in 11 months. You can read the article on the [National Restaurant Association Website](#).