

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Craft Beer Land Debuts at Lafayette Art and Wine Festival

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Andy Schreck

Although for the last 17 years the name of Lafayette's biggest festival referred to wine, along, of course with art, this year there's something special for beer lovers – Craft Beer Land. Fear not winers, there will still be lots of choices from a chilled glass of Wente Riva Ranch Chardonnay to Robert Mondavi Pinot Noir to Ravenswood Zinfandel and beyond to wash down some tasty kettle corn or help digest grilled figs with goat cheese care of Whole Foods. Come hungry, there will be something for even the most finicky junior gourmand at the Art and Wine Festival Saturday, September 15 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, September 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. – lemonade and burgers, anyone? All of the music is free, check the schedule on www.lafayettefestival.com to see who is playing when; bands include the

popular Spazmatics and Beatles tribute band The Sun Kings along with Lafayette's own Bob Athayde and friends.

"Organizing an event like this is a constant challenge to find ways to make it better," said charming organizer and Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Jay Lifson. "So like Disneyland we keep on re-inventing ourselves. We present Craft Beer Land and Food Truck Land. Tucked away behind the Art Stage (on Lafayette Circle) you will find a fun new dining area. A place to enjoy a micro brew, a (hot) dog and a table with an umbrella. Sorry, you will have to walk there. The monorail is currently closed for servicing."

Look for over 250 arts, crafts and commercial vendors and a Kid's Zone with activities for little guests. Last

year, the Art and Wine Festival was bathed in toasty sunshine, so organizers once again suggest those bringing their pooch to come before 1 p.m. when the sidewalks are cooler and less crowded - be sure to bring your own water for Fido.

A complimentary continuous shuttle will be available from the BART station for those parking there or if coming by bike take advantage of the free secured bike valet parking at La Fiesta Square, next to Sharp's Bikes. Mt. Diablo Boulevard will be closed to through traffic from Dewing Avenue to Oak Hill Road through Sunday evening, so drivers take note and plan accordingly.

Lafayette Art & Wine Festival
September 15 & 16
downtown Lafayette

Orinda Restaurant Tour Beckons Bay Area Foodies

By Laurie Snyder

Foodies from the 680 corridor to Piedmont are the focus of local business leaders engaged in planning Orinda's 5th Annual Restaurant Tour. Sponsored by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, the event will be held at Theatre Square on September 18 from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Educational Foundation of Orinda.

"We're trying to gain greater exposure for the event, and I think we've accomplished that," says Victor Ivry, the co-owner of Orinda's Barbacoa and Table 24. Ivry is chairing this year's planning committee, which also includes Sylvia Jorgensen of Merrill Lynch, Dina Zapanpa of First Republic Bank, and Sophina Gellon, the property manager for Theatre Square.

Six wineries will be part of the festivities this year, along with a live band and dance floor, dessert bar, 10-minute massages from Entourage Spa, and a cooking exhibition pre-



Getting a taste at last year's Restaurant Tour Photo Ohlen Alexander

More than 20 restaurants are expected to participate, but only 400 tickets will be sold – and are likely to go quickly at \$40 per person (advance) and \$45 (at the entrance on the day of the event). For more details, visit the Orinda Chamber of Commerce web site: www.orindachamber.org.

Rather than shuttling tour goes back and forth between Orinda Village and Theatre Square as has been done in the past, Village-based restaurants will set up along the strip between Barbacoa and Starbucks. Planners hope this will create a greater sense of unity.

Orinda Restaurant Tour
September 18
Orinda Theatre Square

Get into the Swing at the Rheem

By Jennifer Wake

The New Rheem Theatre in Moraga will be transformed Friday, September 14 when the Big Band of Rossmoor performs the sweet sounds of swing made popular by big band greats like Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, and Louis Armstrong who filled ballrooms and nightclubs with enthusiastic fans in the mid-'30s and '40s.

Come to dance or just tap your toes to the music. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. with free dance lessons offered by professional instructor Gail Enright starting at 7 p.m. before the musical performance begins at 8 p.m. The 31-piece band, which includes seasoned musicians up to age 93 as well as aspiring new artists as young as 13 years old, will keep the joint

jumpin' until 10 p.m.

"The magic of the Rheem Theatre helps bring back the history of this music," said Big Band of Rossmoor director Mo Levich. "The music becomes even more timeless when shared between the generations."

The Big Band of Rossmoor is sponsored by The Generations in Jazz Foundation. Tickets are available for \$10 per person at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, at the Rheem Theatre or at the door. You may call and reserve tickets by phone at (925) 284-7404 for pick up at Will Call.

Big Band Dance
September 14
The New Rheem Theatre

Saturday, Sept. 15th 10-7 PM Sunday, Sept. 16th 10-6 PM
Downtown Lafayette

diablo BEST OF EAST BAY 2012

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For further information, please visit our Website: www.lafayettefestival.com
Also look for us on: f & t

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