

News

Journey to headline B.R. Cohn Festival

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Journey, one of the leading stadium acts in the country, will appear in the small amphitheater at B. R. Cohn winery for the annual fall music festival, to be held this year the weekend of Oct. 3 and 4.



Journey will headline this year's B.R. Cohn fall music festival in October. submitted photo

Winemaker and owner, Bruce Cohn, has been trying to book this act for the last couple of years, but tour schedules conflicted. Said Cohn, "Neal Schon (guitarist for the band) and I go back all the way to when he was 15 and I was 19 years old, and have been good friends ever since. This year they had a break in the tour schedule and we were able to work it out."

The band's current line-up is essentially the '80s era members, with Schon on guitar, Jonathan Cain on keyboards, Ross Valory on bass, but with the addition of Deen Castronova on drums and new vocalist Arnel Pineda. Pineda was actually discovered by the band on YouTube, and it took no less than three phone calls to Pineda from Schon to get the vocalist to believe it was the real Neal Schon.

Journey will headline Sunday, Oct. 4, with more acts to be announced. The line-up for Saturday, Oct. 3, is the Doobie Brothers and Little Feat with other acts to be announced as well.

The concerts, auction dinner and golf tournament serve as fundraising events for various charities, with this year's beneficiaries including the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital Level II Trauma center, Bread and Roses, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma Valley and the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance. The musicians receive the cost of expenses and perform essentially for free.

"My hat's off to these bands that make the effort and come up and play the shows," said Cohn. "Many have not even heard of the charities they are benefiting."

This year's gala auction dinner on Friday, Oct. 2, will be hosted by food and wine expert Narsai David, with Bradley Ogden as the celebrity chef. Tickets for both shows go on sale today, May 26, and can be purchased at the B.R. Cohn tasting room, online at www.brcohn.com or through Ticketmaster.

There is also a two-day discount ticket that can only be purchased at the tasting room.