

Wistaria Vine Entertainment Lined Up

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce has announced that the entertainment lineup for the Wistaria Vine venue has been confirmed. Long-time Wistaria favorite, harpist Ron Longo will again perform two two-hour shows at the vine, from 9 to 11am and from 1 to 3pm. Long-time Sierra Madrean Ann Luke, who has served as president of several local organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce which puts on the festival, will play the dulcimer from 11am to 1pm. And classical guitarist Michael Zubia will return again, performing from 3 to 5pm.

According to entertainment chair Mario Lalli, there are more than 15 acts slated to perform at a total of five outdoor venues during the one day festival. While many acts, such as those at the vine, are returning Wistaria Day acts, Lalli, who owns local restaurant and blues/jazz club Café 322, has also booked several new acts, to ensure this year's event will feature fresh faces while carrying on the tradition of quality entertainment that it has become known for.

Tickets for the shuttle to the Wistaria Vine can now be purchased online at the Chamber's website, SierraMadreChamber.com. The Wistaria Festival is just weeks away, on March 30th, and now is the time to make sure you get tickets at the time that you want to view the vine. Cost of the tickets is \$10, and tickets are distributed based on one-hour time increments, to eliminate overcrowding at the Vine. Tickets are required to view the vine, and are free, but the shuttle up the somewhat daunting hill to the vine costs \$10. Shuttle tickets will get you in the vine, but walk-in tickets are required for those who don't take the shuttle.

It was also announced on Wednesday, that the City's Gateway Coach will provide transportation free of charge for passenger's of the Gold Line, on a loop from the Sierra Madre Villa station to the City Hall parking lot, which is at the west end of the Festival, at Memorial Park where the food venues and children's attractions will be located. The loop will repeat every twenty minutes.

The Wistaria Vine has more than 1.5 million luxuriant lavender blossoms and is estimated to weigh in excess of 250 tons. It is more than one acre in size. It has been named by the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest blossoming plant in the world. It is also known as one of the seven horticultural wonders of the world, which also include the redwood forest in Sequoia National Park, Brazil's tropical jungle in the Amazon Valley, India's gardens of the Taj Mahal, and the gardens of Buckingham Palace.

In addition to providing the opportunity to view the vine, the Chamber of Commerce puts on a festival downtown, which will feature in excess of 150 craft and food vendors. More than a dozen bands will be performing in several different outdoor venues. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.SierraMadreChamber.com or contact the Chamber at (626) 355-5111.