



2016 Gilroy Garlic Festival  
July 29, 30, and 31, 2016  
[gilroygarlicfestival.com](http://gilroygarlicfestival.com)

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Fire in the Hole! Gilroy Gears Up for the 2016 Gilroy Garlic Festival

June 30, 2016 (Gilroy, CA): The Gilroy community is preparing to host the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Gilroy Garlic Festival on July 29, 30 and 31, 2016. Known as “summer’s ultimate food fair,” the three-day celebration draws visitors from around the globe to enjoy great garlicky food, dramatic Gourmet Alley flame-ups, live entertainment, cooking competitions, unique arts and crafts, and the ever-popular free garlic ice cream.

Visitors can find a wide variety of garlic-laced dishes throughout the Festival grounds. In Gourmet Alley, the “Pyro Chefs” put on a spectacular flame-up show while cooking up garlic-laced calamari in huge iron skillets. Meanwhile, hundreds of volunteers prepare other Gourmet Alley favorites, including pepper steak sandwiches, scampi, pasta con pesto, stuffed mushrooms, zesty garlic fried calamari, and sausage sandwiches, as well as garlic fries and garlic bread. Two different combo plates are available so guests can sample all the dishes. More than 60 other booths offer a wide variety of food and beverages.

There will also be cooking demonstrations and competitions going on all weekend long. On Friday, July 29, teams of local first responders (including police officers, firefighters and EMTs) will compete in the first-ever “Champions for Charity” cooking contest on the Great Garlic Cook-Off Stage. The winning team will earn \$3,000 for the charity of its choice. Friday will also mark final appearance of SakaBozzo, the cooking-and-comedy duo of Gene Sakahara and Sam Bozzo, both past Festival presidents who have been delighting audiences at the Cook-Off Stage for 25 years.

On Saturday, amateur chefs from around the country will compete for the coveted garlic crown in the Great Garlic Cook-Off, one of the nation’s most prestigious cooking contests. On Sunday at high noon, four professional chefs will do battle in the iron chef-style Garlic Showdown.

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For the first time ever, the Gilroy Garlic Festival is hosting the “Gilroy Garli-Que BBQ Challenge,” which combines an officially sanctioned Kansas City Barbeque Society contest on Saturday with a Backyard BBQ Ribs Challenge for amateurs on Sunday.

Guests at the three-day festival will also enjoy live entertainment on three stages, with a little something for everyone, including rock ‘n roll, country, jazz, blues, reggae, and swing. KRTY 95.3 will present hot country music stars Brooke Eden, Drew Baldridge, and The Last Bandoleros, all appearing on Saturday on the Amphitheater Stage.

The Garlic Festival Arts and Crafts areas showcase unique, high-quality creations from over 100 artists, while the Garlic Mercantile stores offer shirts, gourmet products, cookbooks, wine glasses, and many other Festival souvenirs. Younger guests will find live entertainment, rides, and hands-on arts and crafts activities in the Children’s Area. Visitors can even learn how to make their own garlic braid and take it home as a unique souvenir.

This year visitors can take Caltrain to the Gilroy Garlic Festival on Saturday, July 30, or Sunday, July 31. Round-trip tickets must be purchased online in advance for the special event “Garlic Train,” which departs from the San Jose Diridon Station at 10:00 am. The Garlic Train ticket includes a shuttle bus from the downtown Gilroy train station as well as admission to the Festival. The return train departs from Gilroy at 5:00 pm. Riders from as far north as San Francisco can use regular weekend peninsula Caltrain service to connect with the Garlic Train in San Jose; peninsula tickets must be purchased separately from Caltrain.

The 2016 Gilroy Garlic Festival, presented by Raley’s, Bel Air and Nob Hill Foods, will run from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 29-31, at Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors 60+ and children ages 6-12. Children under age 6 are admitted free. Parking is \$10 per vehicle and includes shuttle buses to and from the Festival entrance. Gates close at 6:00 pm.

Tickets are available online at [www.gilroygarlicfestival.com](http://www.gilroygarlicfestival.com) and at participating Raley’s, Bel Air, and Nob Hill Foods stores.

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*About the Gilroy Garlic Festival*

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Gilroy Garlic Festival will be held July 29, 30, and 31, 2016, at Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy, California. Presented by Raley's, Bel Air, and Nob Hill Foods, this annual event draws tens of thousands of guests from around the world for a three-day celebration of great garlicky food, live entertainment, and fun for the whole family. For more information, see [www.gilroygarlicfestival.com](http://www.gilroygarlicfestival.com).