



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE GREAT MIDWEST RIB FEST®
RETURNS TO MYSTIC LAKE JULY 28-30**

Outdoor festival features nation's best ribs, free concerts and the World Rib Eating Championship Competition

PRIOR LAKE, Minn. – JULY 14, 2022 – [The Great Midwest Rib Fest](#), a weekend full of barbecue and free live music, is returning to Mystic Lake July 28 through July 30. At this three-day outdoor festival, 10 of the nation's top rib cookers will compete for thousands of dollars in prizes.

The Great Midwest Rib Fest has free concerts each day, with The Commodores and Jefferson Starship on Thursday evening. Grammy award-winning Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo and Rick Derringer will perform on Friday. Generation Radio and Jo Dee Messina will perform on Saturday to round out the weekend.

Attendees can purchase ribs and vote for the "Best of the Fest" people's choice award. Pitmasters will be in attendance from Aussom Aussie, Austin's Texas Lightening, BBQ King Smokehouse, Big Boned BBQ, Carolina Barbeque, Chicago BBQ, Howling Coyote BBQ, Just North of Memphis BBQ, Porky Chicks BBQ and Texas Outlaw BBQ. Local professional culinary and media personalities, led by head judge Mike Brown, will also judge the same ribs and sauces, awarding prizes on Saturday afternoon on the promotions stage. Sides, desserts and beverages will also be available for purchase.

The Great Midwest Rib Fest World Rib Eating Championship returns this year and will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday on the promotions stage. Joey Chestnut is back this year to see if he can reclaim the championship title.

Event: The Great Midwest Rib Fest

Date: Thursday, July 28, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Friday, July 29, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Saturday, July 30, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Location: Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
2400 Mystic Lake Boulevard NW
Prior Lake, MN 55372
*Event will be held in the north parking area
(between Mystic Lake and Little Six casinos)*

Music: Thursday, July 28

The Commodores
Jefferson Starship

Friday, July 29
Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo
Rick Derringer

Saturday, July 30
Generation Radio (Featuring Rascal Flatt's bassist & songwriter Jay DeMarcus,
Chicago's lead singer Jason Scheff and Journey's former lead singer and
drummer Deen Castronovo)
Jo Dee Messina

Contestants: [Aussom Aussie](#), [Austin's Texas Lightning BBQ](#), [BBQ King Smokehouse](#), [Big Boned BBQ](#), Carolina Barbeque, [Chicago BBQ](#), [Howling Coyote Roadhouse BBQ](#), [Just North of Memphis BBQ](#), [Porky Chicks BBQ](#) and [Texas Outlaw BBQ](#).

Judges: Mike Brown – Head Judge (Chef/Owner of Travail), Stephanie March (Mpls.St.Paul Magazine Senior Editor of Food & Dining), Kale Thome (Founder of MN BBQ Co.), Prior Lake Mayor Kirt Briggs and Nicole Hvidsten (Star Tribune Food Editor)

Details: This festival with free admission is open to all ages; guests under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Guests must be 18 to gamble and 21 to purchase or consume alcohol. Get more details at MysticLake.com/RibFest.

ABOUT MYSTIC LAKE CASINO HOTEL

Owned and operated by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel is the premier gaming facility in the Midwest and the largest casino in Minnesota. Mystic Lake® creates original and exciting entertainment experiences for its guests with gaming, distinctive bars and restaurants, indoor and outdoor concert venues, unique special events, and luxurious accommodations, all just 25 minutes southwest of Minneapolis/Saint Paul. In 2018, Mystic Lake opened Mystic Lake Center®, a new event space and hotel tower. Offering state-of-the-art technology, this 70,000-square-foot venue hosts groups of all sizes for conferences, expos, weddings and other events. With 766 new and renovated modern hotel rooms, Mystic Lake is one of the largest hotels in the Twin Cities area.

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Owned and Operated by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community