



Media Contact: Kim F Miller
949 293 1555
kimfmiller1@mac.com
www.twinriversranch.com

Whole Lotta Leapin' Going On

Leap Year weekend offers free admission for high-flying equestrian action at Paso Robles venue.



(Tamra Smith & Mai Baum. PC: Sherry Stewart)

Feb. 27, 2020: Paso Robles, California. The family-owned, 500-acre Twin Rivers Ranch hosts 300-plus horse/rider pairs competing this weekend in the Olympic equestrian sport called "Three Day Eventing." The sport is often described as "equestrian triathlon" because it combines three phases: dressage, cross-country jumping and show jumping.

The most exciting phases, cross-country and show jumping, take place on Leap Year Saturday, Feb. 29. Pan American Games US team gold medalist Tamra Smith and her horse, Mai Baum, lead the most advanced field of competitors in galloping across open, varied terrain,

soaring over fixed obstacles that include banks, ditches and ponds. Smith is vying for a spot on the 2020 U.S. Olympic team, while another contender, Lauren Billys, has already secured a spot in Tokyo with her 2016 Olympic partner horse, Castle Larchfield Purdy. (Smith is based in Temecula and represents the United States. Billys is based in Carmel Valley and represents Puerto Rico.)

Admission to Twin Rivers Ranch is free all weekend. Opportunities to enjoy this exciting sport up close abound in a beautiful setting that makes for an ideal family outing. While the competition is intense, riders are friendly. Most horses are, too, but only approach them with their handler's permission!

Media Inquiries: For general questions & to arrange rider/organizer interviews, call or text Kim F Miller at 949 293 1555

Event Facts:

Admission: Free!

Location: 8715 N. River Road, Paso Robles, CA. 93446

Ride Times, Results, General Info: www.twinrivershorsepark.com

Sponsors: Professionals Choice, Auburn Labs, Best Western PLUS Black Oak, Riding Warehouse

Vendors: Equestrian Habits, Chubby Cov, Whitehorse Tack, Cahoots Catering, Katie's Coffee

Volunteer: <https://www.eventingvolunteers.com/events/1254/signup>

About "Three Day Eventing"

Phase 1: Dressage

Dressage kicks off the competition. Done well, it looks easy, but it isn't! A prescribed "test," as in figure skating, includes elevated steps, stride extensions and collection, and lateral exercises. These are sequenced to demonstrate the horse's training, responsiveness and precise horse-rider communication, all of which are essential for success and safety in the jumping rounds. The score received – the lower, the better -- is carried forward.

Phase 2: Cross-Country Jumping

This phase challenges the pair's bravery, fitness and determination while navigating a series of solid obstacles and varied terrain. Water complexes, banks and ditches are common course elements. Each level of competition has a track designed carefully for its expected level of training, ability and experience. Along with clearing up to 30-plus obstacles, pairs must manage their pace and energy to finish within the time allowed. Faults are incurred for refusals, not clearing jump flags properly and exceeding the time allowed.

Phase 3: Show jumping

"Is the horse still fit and responsive after the rigors of the first two phases?" That's the question show jumping poses. A course of easily-knocked-down jumps

demands pinpoint control, stamina and good jumping technique. Faults are incurred for downed rails, refusals or exceeding the time allowed.

Finishing on a dressage score is ideal. Otherwise, penalties from cross-country and show jumping are added to determine placings. The lowest score wins.

For more details on the sport of eventing, visit the US Eventing Association at www.useventing.com. Riding programs affiliated with the United States Pony Club are a terrific way to get involved with equestrian sports. Visit www.ponyclub.org for more information on Pony Club.