



Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson hosts three-day music festival

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Caravan of Thieves, a quartet that performs acoustic gypsy jazz, is part of the lineup at the at the Rock 'n' Roll Resort in Kerhonkson. / Courtesy photo

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An old Borscht Belt hotel that has found new life as the Hudson Valley Resort will host a three-day festival this weekend featuring jam bands and music until dawn.

Formerly the Granite Hotel, a destination years ago for those seeking rest in the Catskills, the Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson this weekend will assume a new identity, as the Rock 'n' Roll Resort. Scheduled to perform Friday through Sunday are more than three dozen DJs and bands, including New Riders of the Purple Sage, Max Creek and Deep Banana Blackout.

James "Fuzz" Sangiovanni will perform with Deep Banana Blackout, a horn-infused funk and soul jam band; and with Caravan of Thieves, a quartet that performs acoustic gypsy jazz and evokes a past era with period clothing.

But, Fuzz said, "It's not just gypsy jazz. We've brought some stuff in on the flamenco side; Spanish guitar; we've kind of got this big sing-along anthem stuff. We get off the stage, get into the crowd ... stomp and clap ... you picture an old barroom scene, a drinking song, we get everyone to sing and clap and stomp with us."

Caravan of Thieves should fit in fine with the atmosphere of the Rock 'n' Roll Resort, which features dance party after dance party set against the retro-backdrop of the Hudson Valley Resort's pristine ballrooms and cozy lounge. The lobby of the Hudson Valley Resort offers something of a "village green," where concertgoers can regroup and rest.

Shannon Plaquet of Wicked Cool Productions, which is staging the Rock 'n' Roll Resort, said the location of the Hudson Valley Resort "allows ... freedom and escape." He added, "We can create our own little community."

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