



SONOMA
SPEED FESTIVAL

SONOMA SPEED FESTIVAL SECURES TWO *MASTERS HISTORIC RACING* GRIDS FOR INAUGURAL EVENT

Sonoma, CA (January 17, 2019) – The inaugural Sonoma Speed Festival will feature the Masters Historic Formula One USA and Masters Endurance Legends USA – the first time these two grids will appear at any event – when the international race and wine festival takes place, May 31-June 2 at Sonoma Raceway.

Masters Historic Formula One USA and Masters Endurance Legends USA highlight some of the best racers and cars from all over the world. The historic Formula One series started in 2004 and features cars from 1966 through 1985, taking racers and fans back to an era in which Cosworth DFV power and a creative car designer could win races.

Masters Founder and President Ron Maydon said it was time to bring out the new Masters Endurance Legends USA class of racing because of the demand and inventory of cars available from the time period.

“We already have a great following of drivers and fans, and our Masters Historic Formula One USA dates offer some of the best circuits available,” Maydon said. “Our introduction of Masters Endurance Legends USA will, I’m sure, be a huge success. There are plenty of cars in North America and a huge interest in sports car racing, we have already seen a number of American based cars come to race in Europe or in non-championship, one-off American events.

“I’m looking forward to seeing how the new series unfolds and can’t wait to see the action. I am already encouraged by how many of our existing F1 drivers have already invested in cars for the new Masters Endurance Legends.”

Historic Motor Sports Association is sanctioning all racing for the Sonoma Speed Festival. HMSA president Cris Vandagriff said spectators and fellow racers alike will enjoy the spectacle of the Masters Historic Formula One cars.

“Masters organizes a wonderful collection of cars comprised of an international group of racers,” Vandagriff said. “They have events around the world annually and I think this is going to help us draw some incredible international participation, which will be great for the event.”

The new Masters Endurance Legends USA series will feature all cars that were eligible to enter major endurance events from 1982 through 2016. The goal is to attract all cars that were eligible to enter any Le Mans 24 Hours events or its feeder series events (FIA Sports Car Championship, IMSA, Sports Racing World Cup, International Sports Racing Series, FIA WEC, LMES, ELMS, ALMS, ILMC between 1995-2016 inclusive. Also, IMSA EXXON World Sports Cars (1994 to 2002), Grand-Am Road Racing Series, (2003 to 2013) & Group C (1982 to 1993)) and then split them into two categories: Prototypes and GTs.

The Masters Endurance Legends USA groups will race four x 40-minute sessions for 1 or 2-driver teams.

Sonoma Speed Festival General Manager Ryan Turri said more racing and event details are being finalized but that he was thrilled to be the first stop for a new series.

“It’s exciting to debut the Masters Endurance Legends USA at the inaugural Sonoma Speed Festival,” Turri said. “We want every year of the Sonoma Speed Festival to feature unique and special events and exhibits. Everyone who races or buys a ticket will have something new to look forward to, along with the best historic racing possible.”

Why Sonoma Speed Festival?

This event is different. We want owners to know we're going to host their cars, guests and participants like no other event has. It's important that the cars with significant history are shared and that people can see and them being driven, raced and displayed.

Race groups will be curated - similar cars/eras will be represented appropriately, so rest assured you'll be with like-kind cars and like-minded owners. We do not want cars that are modified. Only original, period racing cars with pedigree and history will do.

Participants will have a heightened experience with added amenities such as VIP lounges for them and guests, including fantastic food and wine - not the usual concession stand fare. This is a daunting task but we are committed to taking care of the people that have invested in these historic and iconic cars.

Spectators will walk away from the Sonoma Speed Festival knowing they experienced history in a way they've never done before at an event that we hope will become a staple on their calendars for years to come.

About Sonoma Speed Festival

The Sonoma Speed Festival is dedicated to highlighting the best race cars and collections from the international community and the U.S. One of the primary goals of the event is to connect the beauty and sophistication of the wine country to an event that is spectator and participant friendly while showcasing the best aspects of Northern California. For more information visit: <https://sonomaspeedfestival.com/> or email info@sonomaspeedfestival.com.