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## Rye Brothers blend country and rock for San Bernardino, Norco



The Rye Brothers are set to perform Dec. 17, 18, 19 and 26 and Jan. 21, 22 and 23 at the [Brandin' Iron in San Bernardino](#). They're also scheduled to play Jan. 8 and Jan. 9 at [Mavericks in Norco](#). (Courtesy photo)

*By Wes Woods, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

POSTED: 12/16/15, 5:28 PM PST | UPDATED: 9 HRS AGO

DAILY BULLETIN

**CONCERTS**

The Rye Brothers can see why people might have a hard time describing what they sound like.

Blending rock 'n' roll, country and pop, the four-man group is just trying to be heard by as many people as possible.

“Personally, I think our sound is certainly unique,” said vocalist and guitarist Paul Justin, who lives in Norco. “It’s a blending of rock and country and pop in a way no one has done it yet. I think that’s why it’s hard for people to categorize it. When you’re competing against Luke Bryan and Jason Aldean, they’re doing their thing and it makes money and does well on radio. There’s a lot of similarities of all the artists coming on the radio. We’re outside of that.”

He adds, “We’re part of the wave that changes music again.”

The Rye Brothers are set to perform a string of upcoming dates (Dec. 17-19, 26 and Jan. 21-23) at the country-leaning venue known as the [Brandin’ Iron in San Bernardino](#). They also have Jan. 8-9 dates at [Mavericks in Norco](#).

Singer-guitarist Justin Foutz, who lives in Corona, agrees that the group’s sound is not easy to define, which can be a problem.

“Everyone who has called us or our management says, ‘Man, I really like it. But I don’t know what it is,’ said Foutz. “It always comes back to that. ‘It sounds so awesome, but I have no idea where to place it.’ It’s obviously somewhat country. We hear it’s too country for rock and too rock for country radio. And I laugh at that ... too rock for country radio? Listen to country radio and it’s a bunch of drum machines and people rapping. What’s wrong with rock on there? You already put Taylor Swift on every station there is. It’s one of those deals where we have to figure out the medium between.”

Besides Justin and Foutz, the other members are bassist Jacob Delott and drummer Jeff Sorenson. Foutz said they had a record label into signing the band but offered an ultimatum.

“You either can become extremely rock and write everything very rock and turn into the next Green Day type of thing or be super country and be another Luke Bryant. I was like, ‘OK ... well, no.’”

## Rye Brothers

When: 9 p.m. Dec. 17-19, 26; 9 p.m. Jan. 21-23 in San Bernardino; 9 p.m. Jan. 8-9 in Norco. Find future dates at [www.ryebrothers.net/](http://www.ryebrothers.net/)

Where: Brandin’ Iron, 320 S. E St., San Bernardino; Mavericks, 3841 Old Hamner Ave., Norco.

Tickets: Free admission, excluding food and drink.

Information: 909-381-6172, [www.brandinironsa-loon.com](http://www.brandinironsa-loon.com) in San Bernardino; 951-734-6640, [www.mavericknorco.com/](http://www.mavericknorco.com/) in Norco.

The group, who are not actually related, said they needed a name and realized everyone really liked rye whiskey.

“We really wanted to incorporate whiskey in the name,” said Justin Foutz. “Our manager said, ‘All four of you guys are traveling together constantly, doing hundreds of shows, trying to figure out a name why don’t you call yourself the Rye Brothers since you’re always in the car or bus. And we were like, ‘Wow.’”

The band, who formed this year, has already had some memorable moments, like when a fistfight broke out during the making of their video.

“We couldn’t get anything to work right,” Foutz said. “We got yelled at for smoking cigarettes by some vehicles, because we were too close to the building. We got yelled at for taking a drink when we went out to grab a guitar out of our trailer. And when we walked through the back door ... me and Paul got into a fistfight in the office. We made up. Everybody made up and the best line is the one that came out of our bass player, Jacob. He said, ‘Man, if anything came out of that gig, the video is busted, we got totally busted for smoking and drinking and you guys had a fistfight in the office.’ That in itself is its own song.”