

Esquire

No, Really, Country Music Is Cool Again

Beer-chugging bro country is so 5 years ago. People are writing real songs again.



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Link: <http://www.esquire.com/entertainment/music/a45678/best-country-music-2016/>
<https://issuu.com/pollstar/docs/chris-janson-25/0?mode=embed>

This summer's slate of shows at amphitheaters and stadiums is heavy on the male headliners; the concert-promotion behemoth Live Nation's 2016 Country Megaticket, where fans can buy tickets to country shows in bulk, only offers tickets to one female headliner, the firecracking Texan Miranda Lambert. But the opening acts break up the bro party a bit; Cam is opening for Nashville lifer Dierks Bentley, who Hight notes "went out of his way to involve the female voice more" on his recent album *Black*, while the former *Idol* judge Keith Urban is touring with Maren Morris, whose just-released album *Hero* is unapologetic in both its attitude and the way it brings reggae and power-pop influences into its mix.