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Revelry at The Del Mar Racetrack

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Open Season

by Emily Stanford | Riviera San Diego magazine | July 9, 2012

This Wednesday, kick off one of San Diego's annual rites of summer with Opening Day at the Del Mar Racetrack. We've got your ticket to the season—which runs through Sept. 5—from where to watch the pretty people to the best celebratory bites:

Getting To the Track

Burlap – The Asian-American eatery in Del Mar Highlands is rolling out an All-inclusive Track Package on Sundays throughout the entire race season. The biggest get? Round trip transportation from Burlap to the races in a luxury party bus. The \$80 pass also includes Burlap brunch with bottomless mimosas and entrée into the exclusive Turf Club. burlapeats.wantickets.com

Pacifica Del Mar – Avoid Opening day parking mania with free valet at the Del Mar Plaza coastal hot spot. After the race, belly up to the restaurant's Ocean Bar for their signature Cucumber "Rock" (made with cucumber vodka, fresh lime juice and sugar water) and the restaurant will deduct the valet charge off your bill of \$50 or more. pacificadelmar.com

The Must-Sips

Davanti Enoteca – Don a fabulous Opening day hat at the Del Mar Highlands outpost and receive a free Davanti Spritz, the house special made with Aperol spritz. Pair it with one of the deliciously rustic dishes. May we suggest the pizza con saliscia e rapini? It's made with Italian sausage, broccoli rabe, garlic, chili oil, fresh mozzarella and tomato goodness. davantidelmar.com

Sip Wine Bar – Sneak away from the after-party fanfare and relax at the Dark Horse Soiree at Sip. Choose from more than fifty wines by the glass, craft cocktails (like seasonal mint juleps) and a full bar menu. sipatflavordelmar.com

Race Day Nosh

Mia Francesca Del Mar – Make reservations in Del Mar Highlands for Chef Woody Benitez's "Where the Surf Meets the Turf" kebab, made with grilled ahi tuna, New York strip steak, and grilled swordfish with traditional slices of grilled vegetables, served over lobster risotto. miafrancesca.com

Flavor Del Mar – Take to the patio overlooking the Del Mar streets for a three-course Trifecta Feast for \$57. Dig into spicy crispy shrimp with frisée and arugula, risotto with blue spot prawns with wild mushroom and squash blossom. Cross the culinary finish line with butterscotch budino. flavordelmar.com

Brigantine Del Mar – The landmark eatery is newly reopened, so revive the race-day ritual on their patio eating tasty spiced scallops and fish and chips this season. Don't miss the major renovations, like the retractable windows that open onto the patio and deck overlooking the track. Talk about dinner with a view! brigantine.com

The After-Party

L'Auberge Del Mar – Keep the party going at the hotel's fourth annual after-party. If you can score tickets, indulge in amazing eats from Kitchen 1540 and cocktails from top mixologists—think muddled everything. We love the pairing of thumping beats from S.D. DJs with a colorful crowd donning fabulous hats and dapper suits. laubergedelmar.com

Getting Hot to Trot

Spa Gregorie's – Get your glam on with the Trifecta Package on offer through race season. The trio of treatments, costing \$185, features a one-hour facial, one-hour massage and the option of a signature manicure, blowout or men's haircut. The track is the place to see and be seen, so put your best face forward! spagregories.com



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THU JUL 12

thu	12	
fri	13	
sat	14	Life Aquatic Oceanside Museum of Art - 704 Pier View Way, Oceanside, CA
sun	15	Get Low Oceanside Museum of Art - 704 Pier View Way, Oceanside, CA
mon	16	Summertime Jazz Nights at The Westgate Hotel! Third Floor Westgate Riviera Terrace - 1055 Second Avenue, San Diego, CA
tue	17	Clifford Smith "Light Matters" Scott White Contemporary Art - 7855 Girard Ave., Ste. 101, La Jolla, CA
wed	18	
thu	19	Tastings on the Terrace Addison at The Grand Del Mar - 5200 Grand Del Mar Way, Del Mar, CA