



**THE sportsgrille**

Hilton Downtown

*The Place*



**THE** place for great food

**THE** place for great beverages

**THE** place for SPORTS!

Private dining available in our **Legends Room** Accommodates up to 15 for meetings and/or private dining.

**Open Daily**



**Hilton**

Nashville Downtown

Call 620-2066  
For Career Opportunities

**615-620-1000**

121 Fourth Ave. South  
Nashville, TN



Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center has added Saturday cooking classes, featuring different chefs and cuisines from resort restaurants, to its SummerFest celebration. Tickets for the Cooking Under Glass series are on sale now.

# Gaylord Opryland adds a little sizzle to SummerFest

With celebrity chefs and unique entertainment on tap, hotel aims to lure more locals to season-long celebration

BY CINDY WATTS  
Staff Writer

From the outside, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center looks much the same as it always does this time of year. The lawns are lush and green, the flowers are in bloom and parking lots are full of out-of-state license plates from people in town for vacations or conventions.

This summer, hotel management hopes to change that and add a few more Middle Tennessee cars to its lot. SummerFest, the hotel's season-long celebration, has been revamped to make room for coming renovations, but also to attract more local interest.

"We try to always keep things fresh and change things up," said Ken Groneck, direc-

tor of entertainment. "Since Delta (the popular portion of the hotel that often houses events) is under construction, we thought the acrobats were probably not the best thing, so we had to rethink SummerFest and decide what we wanted to do this year."

Groneck said the creative team kept some old favorites but also added new events. "We decided to put the focus on food, music and plants in the atrium, which are unique things," he said. "We've got a lot of stuff going on and a lot of free entertainment."

### Take fun to new heights

Of the free events, DiVine, the human vine, is back this year and will perform Wednesdays-Sundays in the Delta Atrium.

The staff also kept Aqual, the indoor choreographed water show, which is scheduled daily in the Delta Atrium.

And then there's HydroponiX, the newest addition, in which musicians dressed as plants are embedded in the Cascades Atrium garden. HydroponiX tunes up at 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays.

"In the entertainment department we've adopted the attitude of taking entertainment to a new altitude," said Warren Lyng, manager of special events. "HydroponiX is the most original musical opportunity you will see in Nashville, period. I don't know of any hotel in the world where you can... see six live performers dressed as plants playing on giant lily pads."

## Things To Do

### Food is a big focus

Arthur Keith, senior vice president and general manager at Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, said the SummerFest changes point to a move to be a more polished, trendy, hospitable property. "We're going from Minnie Pearl to Halle Berry," he said. "We love them both, but we're becoming more modern and contemporary with a New South look."

Part of that transformation is a sharper focus on food. The resort added Cooking Under Glass, Saturday cooking classes taught by hotel chefs that feature different chefs and cuisines from resort restaurants each week. Classes are \$35.

For those who crave a more rustic culinary experience, Campfire Cafe Cooking Camp is set for today and Saturday, July 6-7 and Sept. 21-22. *Campfire Cafe* airs on satellite television, and the show's hosts, Pamela Alford and Larry Wiseheart, will be on hand to teach attendees. The event will be filmed for inclusion in their show.

Celebrity chefs, Food Network's Alton Brown and Bobby Flay, will make appearances at Gaylord Opryland over the summer. Dubbed "Good Eats and Good Times" after Brown's successful Food Network show *Good Eats*, Brown's 90-minute semi-



GREGORY SMITH / FILE / ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Food Network celebrity chef Alton Brown will present "Good Eats and Good Times" at the hotel Aug. 18.

nar will include recipes and cooking techniques at the hotel Aug. 18.

Bobby Flay will be at the hotel Sept. 28-29 to host the third annual Fiddlin' Brewin' Bar-B-Q'N Cook-Off.

### Music matters, too

And because Nashville is Music City, the entertainment department decided to throw some tunesmithing into the summer mix. Songwriters Under the Stars is every Friday night in what hotel management

### IF YOU GO

What: SummerFest

Where: Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

When: Through Sept. 29

Tickets: For ticketed events, call 1-888-999-OPRY (6779). Single tickets for all events go on sale to the public two weeks before the scheduled event date. Tickets for Cooking Under Glass are on sale now and start at \$35.

Contact: [www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylordopryland/](http://www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylordopryland/).

refers to as "the woodlands," which is a wooded area beside the hotel. Music City Hitmakers is the property's other songwriting experience. The event is set for July 20-22 and will feature performances by songwriters as well as mentoring opportunities.

If any of this season's activities sound appealing, hotel management said the best thing to do is act quickly because the same opportunities may not find their way onto 2008's SummerFest schedule. "We never do the same thing at the hotel every year," Gronbeck said.

Reach Cindy at 664-2227 or [civatts@tennessean.com](mailto:civatts@tennessean.com).

VISIT [WWW.ZANIES.COM](http://WWW.ZANIES.COM)

**ZANIES**  
COMEDY NIGHT CLUB  
CELEBRATING 24 YEARS OF LAUGHTER!

**JONATHAN SLOCUMB**  
MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup>  
CLEAN COMEDY SERIES



**HAL SPARKS**  
MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> - JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>  
Star of Showtime's  
"QUEER AS FOLK"



**JOSH BLUE**  
JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>  
WINNER of NBC's  
"LAST COMIC STANDING"



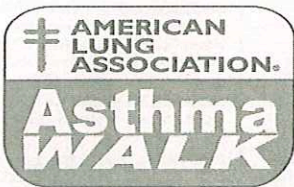
**CHICK MCGEE**  
with Special Guests  
**BOB ZANY & MIKE ARMSTRONG**  
JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup>

As heard on the "BOB & TOM" radio show  
For all upcoming shows & information, please visit [www.zanies.com](http://www.zanies.com) or call 269-0221

# Blow the Whistle on Asthma!



Come walk with the American Lung Association and make a difference in the lives of people affected by asthma.



Saturday, June 23rd  
Nashville Shores Park  
[www.asthmawalk.org](http://www.asthmawalk.org)  
to register today!

presented by Kindred Hospital



Nashville  
Symphony

Leonard Slatkin, music advisor

FOR TICKETS: 615.687.6400 or  
[NASHVILLESYMPHONY.ORG](http://NASHVILLESYMPHONY.ORG)

# PINES OF ROME



GUERRERO



WILSON

MAY 31, JUNE 1 & 2 AT 8 P.M.

Giancarlo Guerrero, conductor  
Terrence Wilson, piano



Repertoire includes:  
Sibelius, R. Strauss, Respighi

Respighi's *Pines of Rome* presents a colorful and exciting montage of impressions that capture the imagination. From the irreverence and energy of children at play to the triumphant march of Roman soldiers returning home from battle, it's no wonder Italian audiences met the premiere of this piece with a standing ovation.

[nashvillesymphony.org](http://nashvillesymphony.org)