

2008 - Special Events & Festivals Across Central Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. – Orlando is well-known for offering visitors the opportunity to visit one-of-a-kind attractions, but the destination also gives visitors the chance to attend unique festivals and special events. Many of these events, such as the Florida Film Festival and Florida Music Festival, consistently receive top rankings.

The following list highlights some of the best of what Central Florida has to offer in annual festivals and special events in 2008*. More information is available on Orlando's online calendar at orlandoinfo.com.

JANUARY

61st Annual Capital One Bowl

Jan. 1

Held at the Citrus Bowl Stadium in Orlando, this New Year's college football favorite brings fans to the edge of their seats with the battle between two powerhouse champs from the SEC and the Big Ten conferences. Admission: \$75.

fcsports.com 407-423-2476

Winter Music Series – Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27

Every January, Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards is the hot spot for live music, winery tours, and, of course, wine tastings. The winery, located west of downtown Orlando, sits on a 127-acre (51-hectare) estate in gently rolling countryside – the perfect setting for a laid-back afternoon. Admission: Free.

lakeridgewinery.com 352-394-8627

Walt Disney World Marathon and Walt Disney World Half Marathon

Jan. 12-13

More than 20,000 participants are expected for the annual event that charts a course through Magic Kingdom, Disney's Animal Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios and Epcot. The two races are the climax of a whole weekend of fitness fun that also features Disney's Health & Fitness Expo in The Milk House at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. Admission: \$95 for half marathon, \$105 for marathon.

disneyworldsports.com 407-939-7810

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games

Jan. 19

Traditional Scottish sporting events take the field for a day of history, culture and excitement at this annual event held at Central Winds Park in Winter Springs. Also included are drum and

bagpipe competitions, highland dancing, sheepdog demonstrations and Scottish singers.
Admission: Adults \$15, Children ages 6-11 \$5.

flascot.com 407-426-7268

19th Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities

Jan. 26 – Feb. 3

This inspiring festival highlights the life and works of one of America's most celebrated collectors and interpreters of Southern rural African-American culture through theatrical performances, educational programs and a juried art show. The nine-day extravaganza takes place in various locations throughout Orlando and Eatonville, the nation's oldest incorporated African-American municipality. Admission: Prices vary. Call for more information.

zorafestival.com 407-647-3131 or 407-647-3188

FEBRUARY

ArtsFest 2008

Feb. 7-17

ArtsFest, now in its fifth year, is a cultural sampling for every taste and pocketbook. From moving ballet and opera to cutting-edge film and art exhibits, this festival showcases Central Florida's best in arts and culture. Presented by Bank of America, ArtsFest is held in venues across Central Florida's four-county area and kicks-off the United Arts annual fundraising campaign. Admission: Free.

redchairproject.com 407-628-0333

Jack Hanna Animal Adventure Weekend at SeaWorld Orlando

Feb. TBD

Jack Hanna, renowned animal expert and host of TV's "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures" and SeaWorld's "Shamu Adventure" show, showcases some of his furry and feathered animal friends from all parts of the world. Guests "go wild" as Hanna introduces unique and exotic animals, shares amazing animal stories and shows hilarious bloopers. Shows are at 12 and 3:30 p.m. daily and are included in daily admission, Fun Card or Passport membership. Admission: Adult \$67.95, Children ages 3-9 \$57.95, Children ages 2 and under free, see Web site for Fun Card and Passport prices.

SeaWorld.com 407-363-2259

SeaWorld's 6th Annual BBQ Fest

Feb. TBD

SeaWorld Orlando is firing up the grill and turning up the music for four weekends of mouth-

watering fun. The All-American event features live performances by top country artists, bodacious barbecue from select U.S. regions and plenty of southern hospitality. Included in daily admission, Fun Card or Passport membership. Admission: Adult \$67.95, Children ages 3-9 \$57.95, Children ages 2 and under free, see Web site for Fun Card and Passport prices. SeaWorld.com 407-363-2259

PlayFest!

Feb. 8-17

Enjoy a 10-day festival packed with dynamic and diverse new plays at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Loch Haven Park. The annual event includes readings, workshops and productions of new plays (all followed by lively post-show discussions), e-mail plays, revivals of Orlando International Fringe Festival favorites, keynote addresses and seminars by award-winning playwrights, new music, food, drink and more. Admission: Button \$5, Readings \$3, Workshops \$8.

orlandoshakes.org 407-447-1700, ext. 1

Mardi Gras at Universal Studios

Feb. -April TBD

On Saturday nights in February, March and April, the streets of Universal Studios theme park turn into the largest Mardi Gras celebration outside New Orleans. In addition to a fabulous concert series, a nightly parade features hundreds of costumed characters, stilt walkers, festively decorated Mardi Gras floats and throngs of beads tossed from float riders. Included in regular park admission. Admission: Adult \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free.

universalorlando.com 407-363-8000

Leu Gardens Valentine's Day Concert

Feb. 14

Treat your sweet to a special Valentine's concert featuring Michael Andrew & Swingerhead in a beautiful botanical bliss. Guests can bring their own dinner picnic basket or purchase beverages and pastries on site and should bring a blanket or chairs. Admission: \$25, \$20 for members of the gardens.

leugardens.org 407-246-2620

73rd Annual Bach Festival

Feb. 15 - March 9

Year after year, this festival brings world-class talent to Knowles Memorial Chapel on the Rollins College campus in Winter Park. The Bach Festival Choir and Orchestra join forces with world-renowned performers such as stellar soprano Dawn Upshaw to inspire audiences in this

acoustically and visually pleasing setting. Admission: Prices range from \$20-50 depending on event.

bachfestivalflorida.org 407-646-2182

120th Annual Silver Spurs Rodeo

Feb. 15-17

Central Florida attracts cowboys from the pro circuit to compete in the Silver Spurs Rodeo, the largest rodeo east of the Mississippi and rated one of the top 50 events sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Located at Silver Spurs Arena in Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee. Admission: \$15; Children ages 10 and under free.

silverspursrodeo.com 407-847-4052

50th Annual Daytona 500

Feb. 17

Gentlemen, start your engines! This legendary event at the Daytona International Speedway brings together the best stock car drivers in the world to compete for NASCAR's richest and most prestigious race. Admission: Single day \$99, Two-day super stretch packages \$150, \$230.

daytonainternationalspeedway.com 386-254-2700

Kissimmee Bluegrass Festival

Feb. 22-24

This three-day event, held at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee, brings together some of the biggest names in pickin' and foot-stompin' music. Celebrating its 28th year, the music fest also features arts, crafts and carnival fare. Admission: Friday \$20, Saturday \$25, Sunday \$12, \$45 advance weekend pass by Feb. 10, \$50 weekend at gate; Children ages 6-16 \$2 per day, \$5 weekend.

originalbluegrass.com/kissimmee 478-949-2036

Festival of Rhythm & Blues

Feb. 23

Kissimmee Lakefront Park sets the stage for this high-spirited concert and lively activities that celebrate Black History Month in the areas of music, dance, crafts, food, art, literature and history. Admission: Free.

kissimmeeparksandrec.com 407-933-8368

Atlanta Braves Spring Training

Feb. 27 - March 29

The Atlanta Braves, one of baseball's most dominant teams for more than a decade, opens drills in February, at Cracker Jack Stadium located at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex.

Their Grapefruit League games – typically a home schedule of 16 dates – are played throughout March. Admission: TBD.

disneyworldsports.com 407-939-4263

Florida Strawberry Festival

Feb. 28 - March 9

Celebrate the fabric of American life through ethnic traditions, social events, competitive contests, youth developmental programs, top-name entertainment, parades with scores of glorious floats and high-stepping marching bands. Enjoy exhibits of agriculture, commerce, industry, livestock, fine arts, horticulture and crafts. The Florida Strawberry Festival takes place in Plant City, off Interstate 4, between Orlando and Tampa. **Time:** 10 a.m. - 10:30 p.m., the Midway remains open until midnight except on Friday nights when there is a ride special called Moonlight Magic from 11 p.m. until 3 a.m. **Location:** Festival Grounds, Plant City, Florida **Admission:** \$9 for ages 13 & up; \$5 for ages 6 to 12 and children 5 and under are admitted free. Check website for info regarding Senior, Student discount days and wristband prices.

flstrawberryfestival.com 813-752-9194

MARCH

Bay Area Renaissance Festival February 23, 2008 - April 6, 2008

Times: 10:00 am - 6:30 pm

The Bay Area Renaissance Festival is like walking through the gates of time to another age where guests from around the gates of time to another age where guests from around the Tampa Bay Area, the South, the country and sometimes the world get a taste of 16th century life. For 30 years the Bay Area Renaissance Festival has delighted visitors with an authentic taste of life in England almost 500 years ago. The Festival has a cast of over 300 professional actors and musicians. The royal court is led by King Henry VIII himself and His Majesty's sixth and final wife, Queen Catherine Parr, who will once again welcome guests to shire of Fittlesworth, charming guests of all ages. Music is of course central to the Renaissance Festival's shire! Bagpipes, harps, flutes, drums, violins, song and more fill the lanes from the moment the front gates open until the cannon sounds at closing gate. Forty thousand pounds of world famous turkey legs are on their way to Fittlesworth as well as a host of other treats found only at the Renaissance Festival. At every turn artisans can be seen demonstrating their talents in a wide variety of media. Ceramic ware, jewelry, clothing, accessories, games and toys, blown glass and intricate leather work can all be found with a 16th century spin found only at the Renaissance Festival. The process to exhibit at the Renaissance Festival includes a jury procedure that begins for the artisan's months in advance for only the finest craftspeople. Only a little over 100 exhibitors are honored each year. Children learn about a time of queens, knights, princesses, elves, faeries, dragons and magic. Additional offerings include the Feast of Fantasy, an exquisite six-course meal complete with entertainment and souvenirs, the Royal High Tea with

the Queen and the Renaissance Smoker, a bawdy production for adults only. The Bay Area Renaissance Festival is located in Tampa, FL., off I-75, exit number 265/FL-582, on Fowler Ave & 46th St, next to MOSI. It takes place for seven weekends in 2008: February 23 – April 6, and March 28. The village gates open at 10 a.m., and closes at 6 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets cost \$16.95 for adults, \$8.95 for children 5-12 years old, free for children four years and younger. Discount tickets are available at MOSI, area Albertson's, ClicknPrint Tickets at www.renaissancefest.com, and area Circle Ks. Parking is free.

www.renaissancefest.com. Phone: 800-779-4910

Disasterville

March 9, 2007 - March 9, 2009

Location: Museum of Science and Industry 4801 E. Fowler Avenue Tampa, Florida 33617

Admission: Price: \$19.95 adults, \$17.95 seniors (60+), \$15.95 children (2 - 12 years). Includes MOSI exhibition galleries, Kids in Charge!, Disasterville, Demystifying India, and one standard IMAX Dome Theatre Experience 10,000 square-feet of interactive exhibits and programs on the science behind natural disasters, how they affect lives, and how to stay safe and minimize property damage. The exhibit covers nine natural disaster genres: floods, hail storms, hurricanes, lightning, tornados, wildfires, volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Appropriate for all ages.

Orlando Bike Week

March 1-9

More than 110,000 Harley Davidson enthusiasts throughout the globe turn out for this annual event, headquartered at the Orlando Historic Factory Dealership, a detailed re-creation of the 1910 factory and the 1903 "shack" in which the Harley legend was born. Festivities include rides, displays, biker fashion shows, custom bike contests and concerts featuring big-name bands from the 70s and 80s. Admission: Free.

orlandoharley.com 407-423-0346

The Central Florida Home & Garden Show

March 7-9

Held at the Orange County Convention Center, the largest consumer home and garden show in Central Florida features local, regional and national experts in remodeling, building, decorating and landscaping, instructional how-to seminars, giveaways and more than 600 exhibits with the industry's hottest home and garden products. Admission: Adult \$9, Children ages 6-12 \$5, Seniors 60+ \$5.

centralflhomeandgardenshow.com 904-730-3356

Viva La Musica

March TBD

SeaWorld Orlando hosts this celebration of Hispanic music, food and culture. The event

features the sights, sounds and tastes of various Latin cultures through music, dance, crafts, food and concerts. Included in daily admission, Fun Card or Passport membership. Admission: Adult \$67.95, Children ages 3-9 \$57.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

SeaWorld.com 407-363-2259

Arnold Palmer Invitational Presented by MasterCard at Bay Hill

March 10-16

One of the crown jewels of the PGA Tour, the event annually attracts one of the strongest international fields of the season. Past Bay Hill Invitational champions who regularly play in the tournament include Fred Couples, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Tim Herron and Tiger Woods.

Proceeds from the Bay Hill Invitational benefit the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children.

Admission: Prices range from \$35-3,500.

bayhill.com 407-876-2888

Valiant Air Command Warbird Air Show

March 14-16

See vintage C-47s and sophisticated 440 mph (708 kph) F-86 Saber Jets at one of the biggest air spectacles of the year. Located at the Space Coast Regional Airport, just south of Titusville.

Admission: Adult \$15 (\$12 in advance), Children ages 4-12 \$12 (\$10 in advance).

vacwarbirds.org 321-268-1941

49th Annual Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival

March 14-16

The festival is one of the nation's most prestigious outdoor arts events, rated sixth best by *Sunshine Artists*. Some 1,600 artists from around the world apply for entry and an independent panel of judges selects approximately 275 to participate in the show. The three-day event also features show-stopping jazz, children's activities and great eats. Admission: Free.

wpsaf.org 407-672-6390

Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival

March 19 – June 1

Walt Disney World guests welcome spring with a full dose of beauty. From elaborate gardens and incredible topiaries to helpful seminars and nightly musical entertainment from the '60s and '70s, the festival offers an array of special activities for all green-thumb levels. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Easter Weekend Open House

March 21-23

Visitors browse The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, which showcases the largest collection of Tiffany glass in the world. Admission: Free.

morsemuseum.org 407-645-5311

17th Annual Florida Film Festival

March 28 - April 6

Rated as one of the top 15 film festivals in the world by the *Ultimate Film Festival Survival Guide*, this 10-day cinema extravaganza features more than 170 films, documentaries and shorts from around the globe. Seminars, tributes, an American Independent Film competition, midnight movies, digital media, parties and a closing weekend awards gala round out the activities. Many of the events take place at the intimate Enzian Theater in Maitland. Admission: Prices start at \$9.

floridafilmfestival.com 407-644-5625

APRIL

44th Annual Ron Jon Surf Shop Easter Surfing Festival

April TBD

Enjoy the sun, surf and sand along beautiful Cocoa Beach, just one hour east of Orlando, as you watch championship surfers from ages 12 to 80 from all over the globe compete in this annual surfing competition. An Easter egg hunt and food court, as well as surf clinics and demonstrations are part of the fun. Admission:

Free.

ronjons.com 321-799-8888

82nd Annual Easter Sunrise Service

April TBD

The Historic Bok Sanctuary in Lake Wales invites Easter morning worshippers to greet the dawn of this special day by watching the sun rise and listening to a 60-bell carillon and brass ensemble with the Lake Wales Chorale. Admission: Adults \$10, Children ages 5-12 \$3, Children 5 and under free. Admission is free from 6-8 a.m.

boksanctuary.org 863-676-1408

Ginn OPEN

April 14-20

The LPGA Tour full-field event is played on a composite layout of the Legacy Course, designed by Arnold Palmer, and the Independence Course, the first Florida course designed

by Tom Watson. Admission: TBD.

ginnopen.com 407-662-1700

96th Annual Central Florida Fair

April 17-27

From improv comedy and safari acrobats to equestrian shows and foot-stomping music, the Central Florida Fair offers something for everyone. Held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds, the carnival-like midway is packed with zany games and thrilling rides. Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors 55+ \$7, Children ages 11-17 \$7, Children ages 6-10 \$5, Children ages 5 and under free.

centralfloridafair.com 407-295-3247

The Great American Pie Festival

April 19-20

Enjoy endless samples of pies with close family and friends. Held in Celebration, the Pie Festival includes demonstrations, bake-offs, pie tastings and pie-eating contests. Admission: Free. Buffet tickets: Adults \$8, Children ages 5-10 \$4.

piecouncil.org 407-566-1200

12th Annual Leesburg Bikefest 2007

April 25-27

Lake County comes alive with the roar of more than 200,000 bikers from throughout the South. Downtown Leesburg is open only to motorcycles for three days of nonstop street party fun. Bikefest features live bands, Ms. Bikefest Contest, Rat's Hole Custom Motorcycle Show, biker games and festive food. Admission: Free.

leesburgbikefest.com 352-365-0053

Kissimmee Jazz Fest

April TBD

Held at Lakefront Park in Kissimmee, this popular jazz concert and festival includes entertainment from local high school performers and top jazz artists, plus loads of cool crafts and food. Admission: Free.

kissimmeeparksandrec.com 407-933-8368

MAY

18th Annual Concert Under the Stars

May 3

Spend an enchanted evening under the stately, moss-covered oak trees at the Historic Bok

Sanctuary, featuring the Imperial Symphony Orchestra. Admission: \$20.

boksanctuary.org 863-676-1408

U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame Astronaut Induction

May TBD

Guests can share in a historical American event as space heroes gather to honor their own during the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame's 2008 Induction Ceremony at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Astronauts being inducted include Michael L. Coats, Steven A. Hawley and Jeffrey A. Hoffman. Past inductees include Jim Lovell, John Glenn, Gene Cernan, John Young, Sally Ride and Norm Thagard. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$38, Children ages 3-11 \$28, Children 2 and under free.

kennedyspacecenter.com 321-452-2121

Spring Jazz Stroll

May TBD

Guests can enjoy an evening of live jazz music and candlelit walkways in a beautiful garden setting. Performers include Otto Gomez Group, Jamie Williams Project and the Julie Lyon Quartet. Dinner picnic basket and blanket or chairs are recommended. Lawn seating only. Admission: \$17, \$13 for members of the gardens.

leugardens.org 407-246-2620

Florida Music Festival

May 14-17

Florida Music Festival is a four-day celebration of up-and-coming musicians held in downtown Orlando. The festival lets fans experience live music, film, visual arts and the cultural community. The event welcomes more than 250 performers from alternative, pop, country, urban, hip hop and acoustic formats, along with hundreds of filmmakers and dozens of visual artists. Admission: \$10 per day, \$25 for three days.

floridamusicfestival.com

17th Annual Orlando International Fringe Festival

May 15-26

The Orlando International Fringe Festival is a 12-day celebration of theater, art, music and madness. Fringe encompasses hundreds of shows, the Visual Fringe, outdoor concerts and "The Kids Fringe Tour." Events are held at various venues in and around downtown Orlando. Admission: \$5-10 per show.

orlandofringe.org 407-648-0077

JUNE

Juneteenth and Jazz Music Festival

June 19-22

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of Slavery in the United States. Events are held at Wells' Built Museum, Wells' Heritage House and Lake Eola Park. Enjoy family friendly activities including a jazz, blues and gospel concert at Lake Eola Park featuring local artists. Admission: Free

pastinc.org 407-245-7535

Star Wars Weekends

June TBD

Star Wars characters come to life at Disney's Hollywood Studios, where guests of all ages can come face-to-face with Chewbacca, Darth Vader, Queen Amidala as well as other favorite sci-fi characters from the famous film series. Star Wars Weekends are scheduled for four consecutive weekends. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Sounds Like Summer Concert Series

June TBD

Families can gather together for an unforgettable night of music and memories in the open-air America Gardens Theater at Epcot. Tribute bands will cover favorite songs from Elton John, ABBA, The Eagles, Billy Joel, Chicago and more. Three shows nightly at 5:45 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

17th Annual Harvest Festival

June TBD

Held at Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards in Clermont, the event offers arts and crafts, live music, free tours, grape stomping, wine tasting and plenty of free parking. Food and beverages available for purchase. Admission: \$2 donation for Hospice Corporation.

lakeridgewinery.com 352-394-8627

Celebrate America

June TBD

Indulge in all things red, white and blue during *Celebrate America*, Cypress Gardens Adventure Park's festival of patriotic spirit. Take a trip through various facets of American history, cheer for the "Celebration Parade" and end the day with a ski show honoring this great country. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$44.95, Children ages 3-9

\$39.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

cypressgardens.com 863-324-2111

9th Annual Fiesta San Juan

June TBD

In celebration of the alluring Latin culture, Wet 'n Wild - Orlando provides nonstop food, live music, dancing and contests that all reflect Latin heritage. The park remains open until 12:30 a.m. so guests can honor the tradition of "The Night of San Juan" by taking a big splash in the water at midnight for good luck. Admission: Adults \$34.95, Children ages 3-9 \$30.95, Children 2 and under Free. Florida Resident \$28.95.

wetnwild.com 407-351-1800

JULY

Independence Day at Universal Orlando Resort

July 4

Enjoy fireworks at CityWalk with activities for families and a preferred viewing area on the lagoon stage (fee required). Admission: \$10.

universalorlando.com 407-224-2691

Independence Day at Walt Disney World Resort

July 4

All four theme parks come alive with special shows celebrating the Fourth of July. Downtown Disney Pleasure Island also celebrates with a street party and patriotic music by live bands. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free. Admission to Pleasure Island is free, \$20.95 nightclub admission charge.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Fireworks Over the Fountain

July 4

Celebrate United States independence at the free fireworks display and laser show around Lake Eola in downtown Orlando. Residents and visitors alike pack their picnic baskets, comfy blankets and fun-loving kids and head out to Lake Eola for an old-fashioned summertime picnic. Admission: Free.

cityoforlando.net 407-246-2827

Kissimmee Old-Fashioned 4th of July Celebration

July 4

Kissimmee puts on a large fireworks display, accompanied by a variety of entertainment at

Lakefront Park. Admission: Free.

kissimmeeparksandrec.com 407-847-2388

50th Annual NASCAR Sprint Cup Series 400

July 5

Formerly the Pepsi 400, this series has been an Independence Day weekend tradition for nearly five decades, and this year's event promises to be the best ever. Motorhead fans are on the edge of their seats as racing stars tackle the 31-degree high banks of Daytona International Speedway. Enjoy the spectacle of night time racing followed by a fireworks extravaganza. Admission: Reserved Grandstand \$50-\$140, Three-day package \$250.

daytonainternationalspeedway.com 386-253-7223

AUGUST

Disney's Pirate and Princess Party

Aug. TBD

Children become pirates and princesses as they embark on a quest through the Magic Kingdom for chocolate doubloons and royal beads. Families can enjoy the new Disney's Enchanted Adventures Parade and experience the Magic, Music and Mayhem fireworks spectacular. Admission: Adults \$45.95, Children ages 3-9 \$39.95. Children ages 2 and under free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

The Tom Joyner Family Reunion

Aug. TBD - Sept. TBD

The Tom Joyner Family Reunion is a weekend full of family fun, complete with entertainment, events and activities featuring the entire "Tom Joyner Morning Show" family. Events are featured at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center, SeaWorld Orlando, Universal Orlando Resort and the Walt Disney World Resort. Admission: Four-day/three- night/three theme park tickets \$695 per person. Five-day/four-night/three theme park tickets \$799.

tomjoyner.com 407-248-9191

SEPTEMBER

Orlando's Magical Dining Month

Sept. 1-30

Thrill-seeking travelers from around the globe know Orlando for its world-class attractions and sunny resorts, but local foodies experience a different kind of thrill when they indulge their senses at Orlando's extensive dining facilities. This September, visitors can taste the good life during Orlando's Magical Dining Month, a rare opportunity to indulge in some of the area's fine dining restaurants. Participating restaurants will offer three-course prix fixe dinner menus for

\$19 or \$29.

orlandomagicaldining.com 407-363-5872

Caribbean Festival at Silver Springs

Sept. TBD

A celebration of the laid-back lifestyle of the Caribbean and Florida Keys including live bands playing reggae and Jimmy Buffet-style music, dancing, specialty Caribbean dishes, games and decorations. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$33.99, Children ages 3-10 \$24.99, Children ages 2 and under free.

silversprings.com 352-236-2121

26th Annual Night of Joy

Sept. 5-6

Night of Joy, which has moved to Disney's Hollywood Studios for the first time, includes a star-studded collection of some of today's most powerful voices in contemporary Christian music. Performers include MercyMe, TobyMac and Chris Tomlin. Admission: TBD.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Rock The Universe at Universal Studios

Sept. 5-6

Chart-topping Christian music stars from across the nation perform at the annual two-day concert event at Universal Studios. The event is designed to highlight the diversity within today's exploding Christian music scene. Admission: TBD.

rocktheuniverse.com 407-363-8000

Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party

Select nights Sept. – Nov. TBD

Each fall, guests are invited to dress in costumes and trick-or-treat through the Magic Kingdom from 7 p.m. to midnight (after regular park closing). The boo-free bash includes a parade and bewitching fireworks spectacular. Admission: Adults \$38.95, Children ages 3-9 \$32.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Fiesta del Coquí

Sept. TBD

The Central Florida Zoo hosts this annual party, which features live music; crafts and activities; demonstrations and much more to celebrate Hispanic culture. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$9.95, Children ages 3-12 \$9.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

centralfloridazoo.org 407-323-4450

Italian Festival at Silver Springs

Sept. TBD

This three-weekend event features Italian music, dancing and authentic Italian food. Menu items include a variety of pasta dishes such as baked ziti, pizza, Italian sausage, salads, bread, Italian ice dessert, wines and domestic/imported beers and ales. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$33.99, Children ages 3-10 \$24.99, Children ages 2 and under free.

silversprings.com 352-236-2121

Epcot International Food & Wine Festival

Sept. TBD

From the seasoned connoisseur to the knowledge-seeking amateur, this popular event attracts a diverse audience to sip, sample and savor treasures from some of the world's most famous wineries and celebrated chefs. Guests can boost their wine IQ at any of the hundreds of wine and beer seminars and polish their culinary skills at the numerous demonstrations and tastings. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Orlando

Select nights Sept. TBD

In its 18th year, the event is considered one of the world's largest, most elaborate Halloween celebrations. Universal enlists a "scream team" of designers to research the human psyche and its deepest fears so that Halloween Horror Nights' guests can confront their most terrifying nightmares. Admission: TBD.

halloweenhorrorights.com 407-363-8000

Phobia at Cypress Gardens Adventure Park

Select nights Sep. – Oct. TBD

Guests can come face-to-face with the known and unknown at Phobia, with frightful haunted houses, a creepy Black Forest and other ghastly delights. As darkness descends, the goblins and ghouls come out to play and they have some favorite spots to gather. "Scare Zones" pop up around the park. "Friendly Frights" await the little ones, with a Boo House and fun Halloween activities. Even the entertainment takes a turn to the dark side with comedy, magic and illusion and much more. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$44.95, Children ages 3-9 \$39.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

cypressgardens.com 863-324-2111

Howl-O-Scream

Select nights Sept. – Oct. TBD

For 16 select nights, Howl-O-Scream transforms Busch Gardens Africa into a nightmare of inescapable fear that will overwhelm the senses with a new spin of horror. The devious creatures that infest six haunted houses, five scare zones and three thrilling shows have plenty of psychotic surprises in store and bone-chilling roller coasters to keep the screams coming all night long. Admission: \$59.95.

buschgardens.com 813-987-5280

OCTOBER

SeaWorld's Halloween Spooktacular

Oct. TBD

SeaWorld's Halloween Spooktacular is a swashbuckling good time for kids of all ages. Friendly pirates haunt the park as little goblins trick-or-treat for troves of treasures, participate in ghostly activities and enjoy Halloween-themed entertainment. Admission: Included in daily park admission. Adults \$67.95, Children ages 3-9 \$57.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

SeaWorld.com 407-363-2259

Oktoberfest at Silver Springs

Oct. TBD

This three-weekend event features live Bavarian and polka music, dancing, authentic German food and a wide selection of imported and domestic beers. Menu items will include a choice of bratwurst, knackwurst, sliced roast pork or foot-long hot dogs, plus sauerkraut, German potato salad and red cabbage. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$33.99, Children ages 3-10 \$24.99, Children ages 2 and under free.

silversprings.com 352-236-2121

35th Annual Winter Park Autumn Art Festival

Oct. TBD

A juried art show with a 30-year tradition. More than 40,000 people attend this free event held in Central Park that features work by outstanding Florida artists. The event features live entertainment and food provided by local restaurants. Children's art workshops are also offered. Admission: Free.

winterparkartfestival.com 407-644-8281

Biketoberfest

Oct. TBD

Biketoberfest in Daytona Beach is a rousing, fun-filled weekend that attracts more than

125,000 motorcycle enthusiasts from near and far. Activities include rides, concerts, food and much more. Admission: Free.

biketoberfest.org 386-255-0415

2008 AST Dew Tour

Oct. TBD

The AST Dew Tour is the season-long professional multi-sport tour featuring top professional athletes competing in skateboarding, BMX and freestyle motocross. The season culminates in Orlando with the PlayStationPro® at the Amway Arena. Concerts, new product demonstrations and prize giveaways round out the event. Admission: Adults \$15, Children ages 12 and under \$5.

astdewtour.com 407-849-2020

7th Annual Winter Park Concours d'Elegance

Oct. TBD

More than 200 exotic and rare automobiles representing numerous international marques are on display on elegant Park Avenue. Guests won't want to miss the Tour d'Elegance, an exotic car parade. Automobiles will compete for class awards and 10 major awards including "Best in Show." Admission: Free.

winterparkconcours.com 352-383-1181

Zoo Boo Bash

Oct. TBD

Trick-or-treat in the wildest neighborhood in town at the Central Florida Zoo. This event is fun and not-too-scary event for young and old alike. Children can wear costumes for trick-or-treat stations and face painting. Visitors can take a haunted hayride, visit the pumpkin patch for a fun photo and learn about the myths and realities of some misunderstood animals. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$9.95, Children ages 3-12 \$9.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

centralfloridazoo.org 407-323-4450

NOVEMBER

Children's Miracle Network Classic

Nov. TBD

Formerly the Disney Golf Classic, this newly renamed tournament brings together nearly 150 top PGA Tour players in a quest for a multi-million dollar purse. The 72-hole event is played on Disney's Magnolia and Palm courses. Admission: \$30 general admission, \$10 practice round,

\$50 weekly badge.

disneyworldsports.com 407-824-4321

Fall Jazz Stroll

Nov. TBD

With a full moon as a backdrop, guests enjoy a leisurely evening of live jazz music in a beautiful garden setting at Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando. Visitors can bring their own dinner picnic basket or purchase beverages and pastries on-site. Lawn seating only.

Admission: \$17, \$13 for members of the gardens.

leugardens.org 407-246-2620

Fall Fiesta in the Park

Nov. TBD

This two-day event held at Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando features more than 600 juried artisans in all media, including ceramics, glassware, jewelry, photography, wood and clothing to name a few. In addition to a fabulous lineup of art and live entertainment, the fiesta offers an array of tasty fare. Admission: Free.

cityoforlando.net 407-649-3152

Sunset & Symphony - Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra

Nov. TBD

The Historic Bok Sanctuary invites guests to enjoy an evening of picnic, pops and patriotic favorites with the award-winning Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and the Singing Tower carillon. Experience the drama as the sky transforms from a colorful golden sunset glow into a magical darkened starry night on peninsular Florida's highest point. Guests may explore the beauty of the Sanctuary and participate in the picnic decorating contest and instrument petting zoo. Admission: \$20; Children under 5 free.

boksanctuary.org 863-676-1408

10th Annual Folk Art Festival

Nov. TBD

The House of Blues at Downtown Disney West Side really rocks as it showcases a wide variety of local and regional folk artists and their works. Guests can enjoy live music, hands-on kids activities, guided tours of the House of Blues folk art collection and Southern-inspired cuisine. Admission: Free.

hob.com/orlando 407-934-2583

33rd Annual Festival of the Masters

Nov. TBD

Held at Downtown Disney West Side, the event is a nationally recognized art show that year after year ranks among the top 50 outdoor art festivals in the world. More than 200 award-winning artists display their diverse creations for all to see. Live entertainment, hands-on children's activities, pin trading and chalk art displays are also on tap at the three-day event. Admission: Free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Festival of Trees at Orlando Museum of Art

Nov. TBD

For nine magical days, the Orlando Museum of Art is transformed into a glittering holiday wonderland where trees, wreaths and gingerbread houses ignite holiday spirit. The Winter Bark Village also allows dogs to enjoy a special pet-friendly village. Admission: Adults \$10, Children \$6.

councilof101.net 407-896-4231, ext. 254

Jack Hanna Weekend at SeaWorld Orlando

Nov. TBD

Jack Hanna, renowned animal expert and host of TV's "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures," showcases some of his furry and feathered animal friends from all parts of the world. Hanna introduces unique and exotic animals, shares amazing animal stories and shows hilarious bloopers. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$67.95, Children ages 3-9 \$57.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

SeaWorld.com 407-363-2259

ABC Super Soap Weekend

Nov. TBD

A bevy of stars from the most celebrated daytime soap operas visit Disney's Hollywood Studios for the world's biggest soap fan event. Parades, autographs and photo opportunities allow guests to get up-close-and-personal with their favorite characters. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children 2 and under free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

2008 Del Webb Father/Son Challenge

Nov. – Dec. TBD

A golf tournament to benefit Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women, the event features an impressive list of golf stars paired with their sons and provides a forum to determine the best father/son team in golf. Held at ChampionsGate Golf Club, the nationally televised tournament is a family affair and is sure to entertain golf enthusiasts of all ages. Admission:

TBD

delwebbfatherson.com 407-787-4653

Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party

Select nights Nov. - Dec. TBD

The Magic Kingdom plays host to this series of nighttime holiday fun events for the little ones including holiday shows, fireworks and magic treats with Minnie and Mickey. Admission: Adults \$40.95, Children ages 3-9 \$33.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Osborne Family Spectacle of Lights

Nov. – Jan. TBD

This dazzling holiday extravaganza electrifies Disney's Hollywood Studios with millions of sparkling lights. With Jennings Osborne's lights and a little Disney magic, the big city comes alive in glowing color as snow falls overhead. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Native American Festival at Silver Springs

Nov. 13-15

This popular annual event includes live performances by Native American dancers, a series of educational/sales booths presented by the White Buffalo Society, Seminole Hunting Camp, Discovery Dig, local school art contest and re-enactors at the Seminole Village on the park's Fort King River Cruise. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$33.99, Children ages 3-10 \$24.99. Children ages 2 and under free.

silversprings.com 352-236-2121

ICE! At Gaylord Palms™

Nov. - Jan. TBD

Who says the holidays in Florida are all about palm trees and sunshine? Visitors should prepare for the coolest winter on record as Gaylord Palms Resort presents ICE! An instant dose of winter, this spectacle is made from nearly 2 million pounds (907,185 kilograms) of ice. Admission: Adults \$19.99 Monday-Thursday, \$24.99 Friday-Sunday. Children ages 4-12 \$9.99 all nights, Children ages 3 and under free.

gaylordhotels.com 407-586-4423

Leu's Holiday House

Nov. - Jan. TBD

The beautifully restored late 19th century Leu House Museum is decked out for the holidays by some of Orlando's best interior designers. Guests can stroll along the garden's meandering

paths shaded by ancient oaks, forests of camellias and giant camphor trees. Admission: Adults \$5, Children K-12th grades \$1.

leugardens.org 407-246-2620

16th Annual Festival of Lights at Silver Springs

Nov. - Dec. TBD

Silver Springs' biggest special event of the year, the Festival of Lights, will feature more than 1 million twinkling lights and dozens of neon displays throughout the park from dusk until 8:30 p.m. Nightly activities will include local choirs singing songs of the season, strolling carolers and musicians, a lighted boat parade, shopping in Silver Springs' specialty stores, special stage shows on Fridays and Saturdays, plus visits from Santa Claus (through December 24). Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$33.99, Children ages 3-10 \$24.99. Children ages 2 and under free.

silversprings.com 352-236-2121

Holidays Around the World

Nov. – Dec. TBD

This Epcot tradition features storytellers, a daily character tree-lighting ceremony and a stunning display of snow-white lights. The moving Candlelight Processional, a favorite of all ages, includes celebrity guest narrators, accompanied by a massed choir and orchestra for a retelling of the Christmas story. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adults \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free.

disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Orlando Christmas Parade

Nov. TBD

Thousands of spectators start their holiday season each year in the historic district of downtown Orlando to the sounds of prancing ponies, motors rumbling and southern breezes teasing the tinsels shimmering from the festive floats. Admission: Free.

orlandochristmasparade.com 407-898-3130

Christmas at SeaWorld Orlando

Nov. - Dec. TBD

Create yuletide memories and celebrate the season during "Christmas at SeaWorld." This holiday event features festive decorations, snowfalls at The Waterfront and live holiday music from classical musicians and carolers. Admission: Included in daily admission. Adult \$67.95, Children ages 3-9 \$57.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

SeaWorld.com 407-363-2259

The Chocolate Nutcracker

Nov. and Dec. TBD

A modern spin will be incorporated in the production as a variety of dance genres—including ballet, tap, modern, swing, jazz, African, American pop and hip hop—are highlighted in the performance.

orlandochocolatenutcracker.com

DECEMBER

The OUC Half Marathon and 5K

Dec. TBD

One of the southeast's top road race events, the OUC Half Marathon and 5K winds through scenic downtown Orlando and around beautiful Lake Eola alongside live local entertainment. Participants joining more than 3,000 runners for this charitable Orlando tradition and enjoy sunny Florida skies, moderate temperatures and the Finish Line Fiesta for post-race festivities.

Admission: \$25 for 5K, \$39 for Half Marathon.

OUChalfmarathonand5k.com 407-423-2476

Pop Warner Super Bowl

Dec. TBD

Now in its 79th year of providing an organizational structure for youth football, Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. brings its Pop Warner Super Bowl and National Cheer & Dance Championships to Walt Disney World Resort. Sixty-four teams from across the country compete in four age groups from 8 to 14 on the fields of the 220-acre (80-hectare) Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. Admission: Adults \$11.25, Children ages 3-9 \$8.50, Children ages 2 and under free.

popwarner.com 407-824-4321

2008 Holiday Extravaganza

Dec. TBD

Live entertainment, 20 tons of snow, ice carving demonstrations, strolling performers, a spectacular fireworks display and arts and crafts vendors help boost the holiday spirit at Kissimmee Lakefront Park. Admission: Free.

kissimmeeparksandrec.com 407-933-8368

Baywave...Jazz by the Bay

Dec. TBD

Guests at SeaWorld Orlando can enjoy music in the key of "sea" during a week of live jazz performances that will warm their souls with smooth rhythms and cool sounds. Admission: Included in daily admission. Adults \$67.95, Children ages 3-9 \$57.95, Children ages 2 and

under free.

SeaWorld.com 407-363-2259

Bowl-a-Palooza

Dec. – Jan. TBD

All eyes will be on Orlando during the last week of December as Florida Citrus Sports presents its annual bowl week festival. Incorporating the Champs Sports Bowl and the Capital One Bowl on New Year's Day, this week will feature more than 100,000 fans flocking to Central Florida for football, festivities and fun. In addition to outstanding action on the field, the festival includes the Orlando Citrus Parade, a concert in Lake Eola Park and more than 20 events in seven days.

fcsports.com 407-423-2476

Champs Sports Bowl

Dec. TBD

The Champs Sports Bowl, featuring teams from the ACC & Big Ten conferences, has existed in name since 2004, but the game's history extends for more than 15 years. Attendance to the game has increased steadily every year since, hitting 40,168 last year. It is played in the Citrus Bowl in downtown Orlando. Admission: \$60.

fcsports.com 407-423-2476

Orlando Citrus Parade presented by Delta Airlines

Dec. TBD

The Orlando Citrus Parade, held in downtown Orlando, features signature citrus floats made from more than 100,000 grapefruit, oranges and tangerines. There are more than 50 entries, including marching bands from across the country. The parade attracts more than 60,000 spectators and an international audience of millions through its television syndication in the United States and Canada in 150 markets. Admission: \$25 general admission, \$50 VIP admission, curb seating free, Reserve seating TBD.

fcsports.com 407-423-2476

Macy's Holiday Parade at Universal Studios

December TBD

The world's most famous parade has become a holiday experience for park guests at Universal Studios, featuring some of the most popular balloons and floats from the famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. The excitement and pageantry of the parade, complete with a festive tree lighting ceremony by Santa Claus himself, is exhibited each day of the holiday season through the New Year. Admission: Included in regular park

admission. Adults \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free.

universalorlando.com 407-363-8000

Grinchmas at Universal's Islands of Adventure

December TBD

This annual holiday celebration is based on the beloved Dr. Seuss tale and Universal Pictures' and Imagine Entertainment's Academy Award-winning blockbuster hit, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Seuss Landing at Islands of Adventure is transformed into a bah-humbug haven by the Grinch. The entire Seussian-themed island is colorfully decorated for the season and guests are invited to meet the Grinch in his lair, which is outfitted with authentic movie props and gadgets. Grinch fans enjoy a live, musical stage show that re-tells the world-famous story of the grumpy Grinch. Admission: Included in regular park admission. Adult \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free.

universalorlando.com 407-363-8000

New Year's Eve at SeaWorld Orlando

Dec. 31

SeaWorld Orlando is throwing a big New Year's Eve party complete with live music and fireworks. Dance to the beat of a live DJ as the countdown to 2009 begins at The Waterfront, where guests can also enjoy shopping, dining and entertainment venues. At the stroke of midnight, witness the Orlando sky radiate during a brilliant fireworks show that will light up the night. Admission: Included in daily admission. Adults \$67.95, Children ages 3-9 \$57.95, Children ages 2 and under free.

SeaWorld.com 407-363-2259

New Year's Eve 2007 at Universal CityWalk

Dec. 31

Universal CityWalk, a 30-acre (121,406 square-meters) entertainment complex with themed restaurants, nightclubs and shops, hosts one of Orlando's hottest New Year's Eve parties. The evening features live performances by national acts, an expansive gourmet buffet, a champagne toast and live entertainment at its nightclubs, including *the groove*, an electrifying dance club; CityJazz, a hip jazz venue; Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville and others. Admission: TBD.

universalorlando.com 407-363-8000

New Year's Eve at the Walt Disney World Resort

Dec. 31

The parks come alive to say farewell to 2008. Pleasure Island at Downtown Disney features live music, street dance parties and a countdown to midnight during a New Year's Eve

extravaganza that has become a Walt Disney World tradition. Epcot celebrates the New Year "around the world" with DJs and evening dance parties located throughout World Showcase and lasting late into the evening, as well as a special presentation of the "Illuminations: Reflections of Earth" lights, lasers and fireworks display. Disney's Hollywood Studios celebrates New Year's Eve not only with multiple presentations of "Fantasmic!" a spectacular of Disney movies and music, but also with a special "Lights! Camera! Happy New Year!" fireworks spectacular, as well as a DJ dance party around the Sorcerer Hat Stage. Magic Kingdom features special presentations of the "SpectroMagic" parade and multiple nighttime fireworks displays. "Holiday Wishes" lights up the sky early in the evening and guests who make it to midnight can see "Fantasy in the Sky" fireworks, which begin just before the New Year kicks off. Admission: Theme park events are included in regular park admission. Adults \$71, Children ages 3-9 \$60, Children ages 2 and under free. Pleasure Island prices: TBD.
disneyworld.com 407-824-4321

Grande Masque

Dec. 31

Orlando rings in the New Year in the midst of a winter fantasy at the Grande Masque, a black-tie masked ball held at the Gaylord Palms Resort to support Orlando's arts community. Grande Masque offers gourmet dining; performances by the Orlando Ballet, Orlando Opera and Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra; and a silent and live auction offering unique prizes. Admission: \$400-500 per person or \$4,000-5,000 for a table of 10.
grandemasque.com 407-426-1700

*Details related to festivals and special events are subject to change.