



Hotel Monteleone



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Hotel Monteleone to Celebrate 60th Anniversary of Legendary Carousel Bar Tonight

Celebration to Benefit New Orleans City Park Carousel

New Orleans, La. - Hotel Monteleone will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the legendary Carousel Bar tonight benefitting the New Orleans City Park Carousel. The celebration will kick off with a carnival atmosphere in the 200 block of Royal Street.

The festivities will feature live entertainment by Johnny Angel and the Swingin Demons from 5:00-8:00 P.M. Several swing dance couples, clowns, face painters and other carnival characters will join in the festivities. The themed event will also be serving up 1940's drinks at 1940's prices, Lucky dogs, popcorn and cotton candy in addition to prizes. The Co-Masters of Ceremonies are Rita Benson LeBlanc and Mike Theis from Mix 92.3. He will be giving away plenty of prizes to the lucky winners. The anniversary of the Carousel Bar will coincide with New Orleans Wine and Food Experience's Royal Street Stroll.

Both Glazer and Republic Beverage Companies are showcasing beverages inspired by drinks that were popular in the 1940's. They will be serving Sapphire Collins, Smirnoff Moscow Mules, Crown Manhattans, Martell Side Cars, Plymouth Gin Fizzes, Old Fashions, Maker's Mark Mint Juleps and Bacardi Shaken Daiquiris.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the New Orleans City Park Carousel for its on going restoration of the 100-year-old historic landmark. "The Carousel Bar is another element that is uniquely New Orleans and we are excited about the 60th anniversary. The celebration provides us an exclusive opportunity to partner two famous New Orleans carousels in order to honor both their longevity and beauty," says Hotel Monteleone Director of Sales and Marketing, Andrea Thornton.

Inside Hotel Monteleone, The Carousel Bar will celebrate by offering several classic cocktails from the 40's. Headliners include Anais St. John and Harry Mayronne from 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. and Leah Chase from 10:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight. John Zutin will continue the evening until the wee hours.

In 1949 Hotel Monteleone opened the Carousel Bar featuring 24 revolving seats that make one complete revolution every 15 minutes. The Carousel Bar is chain driven around 2,000 rollers and powered by a 1/4 horsepower motor. Guests of the Carousel enjoy the ride the bartenders remain stationary in the center.

"Not only does the Carousel Bar have a signature ambiance about the room, but for decades the Carousel Bar has been serving signature drinks including The Ramos Gin Fizz, The Goddy and The Vieux Carre Cocktail," "We are currently in

search of the recipe for a drink named for the hotel, the Monteleone, which was a cocktail served in the bar until the 1960's. We would love to hear from someone who remembers this namesake drink," adds Thornton.

Since the doors opened, the Carousel Bar has undergone several transformations with the original carousel bar showcasing a tarpaulin top. The current Carousel Bar was last renovated in 1992, includes a fiber optic ceiling boasting 186 light bulbs and a wooden carousel top inspired by a carousel in California. The seats were replaced from stools to chairs with painted circus scenes on the backs.

Not only has the Carousel Bar been enjoyed for decades by locals, but celebrities are drawn to it as well. The first person to play the piano that still resides in the Carousel Bar was Liberace in 1949 and its history states that Ernest Hemingway, Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner and Winston Grooms are among those who have taken a spin on the Carousel. Recently, sightings include Michael Jordan, Dennis Quaid, Greg Allman, Tommy Lee and the past season cast of Top Chef.

Since 1886, the Hotel Monteleone, www.hotelmonteleone.com, has proudly stood as one of the first landmarks in the famous French Quarter. The hotel is the Quarter's largest full-service hotel, featuring 600 comfortable, luxurious guestrooms and suites. Hotel Monteleone is within walking-distance of some of New Orleans most famous attractions and is conveniently located eleven miles from the Louis Armstrong International Airport. Hotel Monteleone is a member of the Preferred Hotels® & Resorts, a three-time AAA Four Diamond award-winner, and has won the J.D. Power and Associates Upscale Hotel Award for "An Outstanding Guest Experience" for the past three years.

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