Walt Disney World News

Romantic Old South is Recalled at Disney's Port Orleans Resort

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Stately southern mansions, rustic bayou dwellings and ornate row-house buildings are recalled at Disney's Port Orleans Resort, a 3,056-room resort that features two "regions" — the French Quarter and Riverside.

Southern architecture creates the setting for romance amid trees and flowers. The resort offers a step back in time into the heart and soul of the Southern region of our country.

The two themed regions are connected by a winding road and picturesque waterways to capture the mystery and romance of a trip up the Mississippi River from New Orleans to Natchez. But in Walt Disney World geography, resort guests can travel by flat-bottomed boats even farther "down river," to the shops and showplaces of Downtown Disney.

Southern-Styled Grace and Charm at Riverside

Disney's Port Orleans-Riverside is a 2,048-room fantasy vacation adventure depicting the lifestyle of the great Old South with wandering paths, picturesque waterways and the sounds of Cajun music. The resort includes mansion-style accommodations and rustic retreats. Most rooms sleep four, but some rooms in Alligator Bayou offer a trundle bed and accommodate five.

Some 512 rooms have been reimagined to Royal Guest Rooms, where ornate beds are trimmed with dazzling crystals and gold accents, and magical fireworks "swirl about" the headboard. The new Royal Guest Rooms immerse families in Disney fairytales with fun and engaging features. Families will delight that Princess Tiana hosted her royal friends from around the world in these elegant rooms and each special guest has left behind a cherished memento to mark the visit. Guests will discover a treasure trove in the immersive room décor from stars of favorite animated films such as "Aladdin," "Beauty and the Beast," and "The Princess and the Frog."

The cuisine is varied, with a blend of Cajun specialties and American fare at Boatwright's Dining Hall, a 208-seat family restaurant reminiscent of a wooden shipbuilding yard. The Riverside Mill food court, which seats 450, features pizza, Cajun chicken sandwich, freshly sliced meats, create-your-own-pasts and a bakery in a themed cotton-mill setting.

The focal point of Ol' Man Island is a 3.5-acre recreation complex with pools, spa, fishing hole and playground. Bicycles and boats also are available at The Marina at Riverside. The Muddy Rivers pool bar on Ol' Man Island will quench even the greatest thirst.

For a relaxing and entertaining evening, the River Roost lounge provides the perfect atmosphere. Next door is Fulton's General Store featuring a wide variety of sundries.

Down the River is the Romance of the French Quarter

Disney's 1,008-room Port Orleans-French Quarter is a village of seven three-story residence buildings plus shops, dining and recreation areas situated riverside.

The 300-seat Sassagoula Floatworks and Food Factory with a variety of food-court vendors offers everything from beignets and hand-dipped ice cream to fried chicken and jambalaya.

The recreation area is highlighted by a colorful sea serpent statue slide that emerges from the pool — Doubloon Lagoon — in a blaze of purple and turquoise. Frolicking around the pool are comical Mardi Gras characters.

Scat Cat’s Club features a light menu of hors d’oeuvres and entertainment. Mardi Grogs poolside bar serves a variety of specialty drinks, plus light snacks.

Across Port Orleans Square in the resort’s French Quarter region is Jackson Square Gifts & Desires featuring a wide variety of merchandise and sundries.

Most guestrooms feature two double beds and accommodate four guests. There are a limited number of rooms with king-size beds. Handicapped-equipped rooms are available.

For reservations and information, guests may call 407/W-DISNEY or visit www.disneyworld.com.

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