

Dining with dinosaurs

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Two life-size dinosaurs will grace the outside and dozens more robotic dinosaurs will decorate the interior of the T-Rex restaurant and store under construction at Downtown Disney.

The restaurant, slated to open next fall in Downtown Disney's Marketplace section, will be the second in a new chain designed by Steven Schussler, who created Rainforest Cafe, and developed in partnership with Landry's Restaurants. The 30,000-square-foot project, much larger than the Kansas City, Kan., prototype, will include a cocktail bar, a 3,500-square-foot retail shop and enough educational and entertaining decor to qualify as an attraction, Schussler said.

"We've got over 35 different dinosaurs on the inside, a quarter of a million dollars in fossils embedded in the men's room and ladies' room, with educational comments so you can learn about them. Most of that stuff in there is literally 45 [million to] 80 million years old," Schussler said.

Regal Sun rises

To help promote its new look and name following a \$25 million renovation, the Regal Sun Resort at Walt Disney World is offering discounts to Florida residents for stays at the hotel and for its MurderWatch Mystery Theatre dinner show.

Formerly known as the Grosvenor Resort, the lakefront resort in Lake Buena Vista is offering a 2-for-1 offer for dinner-theater tickets and a resident rate for overnight stays.

The hotel, the closest to the Downtown Disney entertainment complex, changed its name to Regal Sun Resort on Sept. 1, marking the completion of its property-wide renovation, including work on 626 guest rooms, seven suites, meeting space, lobby, restaurants and lounges. The project is complete except for some pool enhancements; at least one pool is remaining open as that work progresses.

Best of Florida

The Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Kissimmee was voted Florida's Best Resort Hotel by readers of Florida Monthly and its Floridamagazine.com Web site. The magazine's annual "Best of Florida" issue noted the resort's 4 acres of themed restaurants, shops and entertainment. The resort's Canyon Ranch Spa Club also took top honors as Florida's Best Spa.

Other Central Florida attractions to make the magazine's "Best of Florida" list included: Best Theme Park, Walt Disney World's Epcot; Best Attraction, Gatorland in south Orange County; Best Roller Coaster, The Incredible Hulk Coaster in Universal Orlando's Islands of Adventure theme park; Best Dinner Show/Theater, Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament in Kissimmee; Best Aquarium, SeaWorld Orlando; Best Professional Theater, The Seaside Music Theater in Daytona Beach; Best Comedy Venue, Sak Comedy Lab in Orlando; Best Mall, The Mall at Millenia in south Orlando; Best Music Store, Virgin Megastore in Downtown Disney West Side; and Best Port, Port Canaveral.

Double the terror

Terror in Orlando has opened up a second attraction on International Drive in time for the Halloween season.

Developer Haunting Dreams Inc. opened its first year-round haunted-house attraction, Mayhem Manor, in July at 7316 International Drive just a few months after the landmark Skull Kingdom attraction closed

nearby. The second Terror in Orlando unit, called Kilmor the Clown's 3D Haunted House, is now open at the same address. Tickets for one attraction cost \$8 for a child and \$12 for an adult; an extra \$5 gets you into both attractions.

[Illustration]

PHOTO: Florida Monthly readers voted Incredible Hulk Coaster as the state's best roller coaster. PETER COSGROVE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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