

Grand Times



Celebrate the Holidays in Grand Style

We've got a simple solution for escaping holiday stress: spend them at the Grand! Whether you're looking for an amazing Thanksgiving buffet, a photo with Santa, or an exquisite New Year's Eve, it's happening here and you're invited. Let us take care of the decorating, the meal prep, and the dishes, and come share some holiday cheer with us. As always, we promise fun for the whole family, unmatched ambiance and impeccable service.

This year's Thanksgiving boasts a culinary feast with live entertainment accompanying the mid-day meal. Resort guests may choose between the elaborate buffet offerings of the Dining Room or the Ballroom. The legendary Thanksgiving Day lunch and dinner buffets in the Grand Ballroom are also open to the public. Reservations are required, and space fills quickly, so please don't hesitate to join us for the celebration.

As November turns to December, young and old will delight in the holiday spirit at the Grand. Be sure to see the magnificent Gingerbread Village, which includes a replica of the resort. Would someone in your family like to meet Santa? He'll be here on Saturday mornings from November 28 – December 19. Don't forget to make your reservation for breakfast where you can pose for your picture with him. All throughout the season, we'll keep the magic alive with holiday options for all. Contact the concierge's desk to find out what activities we're offering during your stay – there's always something going on!

You may want to take a little break from this hectic time of year with a spa treatment, a soak in the hot tub, or a day on the links with friends. Savor the holiday spirit among the Grand's exquisitely-decorated Christmas trees and twinkling Live Oaks. Or enjoy the joyous holiday decorations displayed in downtown Fairhope. It's quite the oasis amid the bustle of the season.

As December ends, it's time to consider how you'll ring in 2016 and make it memorable. Whether you're looking for a romantic Steakhouse dinner, a cozy evening around the fire, or a fun night of toasts and dancing, there's something in our plans for you. A variety of packages are available with rooms starting at \$259.

Speaking of packages, don't miss the special holiday packages the Grand is offering between Thanksgiving and New Year's. It's a great time to save while enjoying everything we have to offer. Visit www.grandhotelmariott.com for more information on packages and to make reservations.

Happy holidays to you! We hope to see you here soon.



Enjoy Thanksgiving at the Grand.



Enjoy a refreshment in Bucky's Birdcage Lounge.



Build and decorate a Gingerbread House at the Grand.



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Fore in the Fall – it's Grand Golf

Fall. For some its football season, but avid golfers know it's the best time of the year to hit the links.

With two championship courses, the Lakewood Golf Club at the Grand is a sparkling resort member of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Rolling fairways, tight greens, spring-fed lakes, meandering streams and stands of mature trees make the 36 holes of Lakewood beautiful and challenging.

Five sets of tees provide a challenge to players of all skill levels. The Dogwood course, designed by Perry Maxwell, presents a set of interesting challenges like the short par 4 7th which demands a precise tee shot, the intimidating par 3 8th, and the par 4 15th where the green is a challenge all its own.

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On the Ron Garl – designed Azalea course, the uphill par 4 8th demands a strong tee shot and then a precise approach on another challenging green. And just ahead is the par 5 14th where the approach to the island green is the shot everyone looks forward to. The majestic oaks framing the par 4 18th provide a scenic finish to another great round.

New to the Grand golf experience is Foot Golf. Combining the best elements of soccer and golf, it's attracting young people to the game across the country. Every Tuesday afternoon the back nine of the Dogwood course sports another set of tees and greens with enlarged holes. Requiring no expensive equipment or particular golf skills, Foot Golf has been a popular way for parents to bring their kids to the course and share the golf experience.

Fall golf packages at the Grand include a deluxe guest room, lunch, greens fees, cart and access to the driving range. Weekday rates for one player start at \$289, weekends at \$309. For two players the package begins at \$369 on weekdays, and \$389 on weekends. Beginning December 1 through February 29, golfers can take advantage of a special rate that includes a resort view room, golf for two with a cart, for \$259, available both weekdays and weekends.

So make your plans to test your skills at the Grand this fall. Visit GrandHotelMarriott.com to make your reservations today.



The Dogwood course at Lakewood Golf Course.



Foot Golf at Lakewood Golf Club.



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Hollywood Comes to Fairhope

Mark your calendars now for November 12-15 and get ready for four days of innovative, brilliant and award-winning films at the Fairhope Film Festival. Now in its third year, the event hosts over 40 screenings of intriguing and creative films in the quaint bayside city of Fairhope, just a few minutes down the road from the Grand Hotel.

A big supporter of the festival, the Grand is an excellent base for those attending the event, providing Southern hospitality to accompany some of the most acclaimed films from around the world. Exceptional foreign and feature films, documentaries and shorts -- many that never made it to theatres -- are presented to appreciative audiences at five venues over a four-day period.

Directors, actors and screenwriters will participate in the screenings both in person and via electronic transmission. At opening and closing events, plus parties throughout the weekend, the emphasis will be on the art of filmmaking and the experience of seeing exceptional films.

It promises to be a unique weekend of world-class entertainment, hosted in a colorful and cozy former arts colony. So make your reservations today. The Grand offers resort view rooms beginning at \$229 during the event. Visit GrandHotelMarriott.com to make your reservation today.

Additional information regarding the festival is available at fairhopefilmfestival.org.



Award-winning films at the Fairhope Film Festival.



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New Chef Brings Swagger and Spice to Grand Kitchens

Plenty of fresh seafood plus other local ingredients, an abundance of seasonings and a bit of Texas swagger can now be found in the Grand kitchen as Cory Garrison takes over as Executive Chef.

“This is a beautiful property with a great history and some of the nicest people I have ever met,” said Garrison. As equally fond of seafood as steaks, Garrison will keep many Grand culinary traditions but will influence the menu of the Grand Steakhouse and the Saltwater Grill. “My favorite foods tend to be very fresh and clean tasting,” said Garrison. “I tend to cook more with olive oil than clarified butter and add a combination of spices to complete dish.”

The Grand Steakhouse is a Four Diamond Award winning restaurant and something very comfortable to Chef Garrison. He has worked at three Four-Diamond restaurants previously and looks forward to building on the Grand’s reputation of culinary excellence. “Don’t worry, the bread pudding will remain on the menu,” said Garrison. “However, we will consult with local farmers, ranchers and fishermen to see what additional options may be available to enhance the Grand’s menus.”

After helping his grandmothers cook holiday meals at age 10, Garrison formally joined the culinary industry when he turned 15. From busboy to dishwasher to fry cook in just six months, his career has skyrocketed throughout Texas. Prior to arriving in Point Clear, his 24-year career resume includes the La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa in Montgomery, Texas; The Gooses Acre in The Woodlands, Texas; Ruffinos Italian Restaurant in Fort Worth, Escargot in Fort Worth; Lola the Restaurant in Dallas and the Melrose and Omni Hotels in Dallas.

Garrison graduated from the Scottsdale Culinary Institute in Arizona. His love for cooking goes full circle with his hobbies of hunting and fishing. “Basically I live in the kitchen and have found an industry that I love.”



Cory Garrison takes over as new Executive Chef.



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Eastern Shore Calendar of Events

First Friday Art Walks

November 6, December 4, January 1, February 5
Downtown Fairhope

Fairhope Film Festival

November 11 - 15
Fairhope

Grand Beverage Academy: Punches
November 20, 5:30 p.m.
The Grand Hotel Marriott

Grand Culinary Academy: A Thanksgiving Dinner

November 21, 10 a.m.
The Grand Hotel Marriott

Thanksgiving at the Grand

November 26
The Grand Hotel Marriott

Fairhope Christmas Parade

December 4, 7 p.m.
Downtown Fairhope

Baldwin Pops Holiday Concert

December 8, 7 p.m.
Daphne Civic Center

Grand Beverage Academy: Warm Drinks, Cold Nights

December 18, 5:30 p.m.
The Grand Hotel Marriott

Grand Culinary Academy: Gingerbread Houses

December 19, 10 a.m.
The Grand Hotel Marriott

Christmas at the Grand

December 25
The Grand Hotel Marriott

New Year's Eve at the Grand

December 31
The Grand Hotel Marriott

Mardi Gras Parades

January 29 – February 9
Fairhope and Daphne

Valentine's Day at the Grand

February 14
The Grand Hotel Marriott



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