GETTING RACY

The Essentials for Opening Day at Del Mar
Make it a day to remember with these expert tips

by ALICIA SUCHITRZ

On the eve of the San Diego County Fair, the beachhead of the Del Mar Racetrack will be abuzz with glamour, cocktail parties and a celeb crowd at the track’s annual Opening Day event. The safest way to get race day on the right track? Do it like, uh, a celebrity. 

Here’s how: 

WHAT TO WEAR: 
Leather, prints, hats, sunglasses, snorkels, sarongs, flip-flops ... to be honest, it’s a toss-up. This year’s Opening Day theme is “Hollywood Sky,” so you da real life starlet and wear it well. But you might want to consider putting on some pants. 

WHERE TO STAND: 
At the finish line, of course! The main reason is that the jockeys will throw you a party, but you get a ringside view of the best. 

WHERE TO PARTY: 
At the Stakes Tent, the starting gate or at the track’s inaugural Opening Day Veuve Clicquot party. Check out the polo this year — the Del Mar polo club is hosting another sold-out crowd.

WHERE TO DINE: 
At the Del Mar Racetrack’s Del Mar Hotel. There’s a $150-per-person prix fixe menu, which includes a glass of Veuve Clicquot and a bottle of wine. 

WHERE TO STAY: 
At the Grand Pacific Palisades or the Del Mar Beach Resort. Both hotels are hosting special Opening Day packages.

WHAT TO ROCK OUT TO: 
Nothing beats the Del Mar racetrack’s DJ lineup. This year’s DJs include: 

- July 18: Tony Moran
- July 19: DJ Pat Benatar (also starring in the Del Mar’s annual outdoor concert)
- July 20: Peter Frampton
- July 21: The Eels
- July 22: B-52s
- July 23: The Isley Brothers
- July 24: Dee Snider by night

Whatever you do, make sure to get your tickets online. Opening Day can get crowded. So, for the love of all that is holy, don’t be the one who ends up standing in line for an hour and a half to get into the track.

By the way, if you’re in need of a break, head to the Del Mar Fair. It’s running from July 22 to Aug. 6, and there’s a carousel, midway, food stands, and a concert series. Oh, and don’t forget to bring sunscreen and a hat. It’s going to be hot!