

Don't Count the Swan Out

Dont count out the Swan when choosing a Disney Resort. True, its not really a Disney resort, but its a gorgeous hotel, in a perfect location and it comes at a pretty decent price.

Reservations at the Beach Club were not in the picture for us. The prices were just too high. After a little research I was able to get a pretty good price at the Swan and decided to take it.

We really never thought about staying there, thinking of it as just a normal hotel plopped into the WDW area. We were wrong.

From the moment we checked in, we felt pampered and even though it was not heavily themed like other resorts on the WDW property, it still felt like Disney to us.

We were helped immediately when we got in line to get our room. The staff was very friendly and helpful Giving us maps, advice on where to eat that night, and even told us our special requests (extra blankets and

pillows) would be handled quickly.

We had Charles help us up to our room. He took all our luggage on a cart for us. Unloaded the cart into our room and was very nice. We tipped him and he was very gracious about it.

We were impressed at the size of the room. It seemed large. The carpet was a strange reddish color, but other than that we liked the room. It had a nice table, a nice large dresser, two beds and a chair by the window. The bathroom was pretty typical, but nice.

The kids enjoyed the game rooms. They have two. There are also basketball courts which were used often by our group. They had a few pools, 3 or 4,

which were very nice and really not very crowded considering it was in the 90s for most of our vacation.

We spent a few nights at Kimonos, eating some deicious sushi. The sushi bar was well stocked and tasted fresh. They had Karaoke one night while we were there and it was lots of fun.

The location is wonderful, too. It is in the Epcot bay area. A boats ride away to both Epcot and MGM. Not to mention the Yacht and

Beach Club and the Boardwalk, too. We love MGM and spend a lot of our time there.

So dont think that a stay at the Swan will be less than wonderful - we wouldn't hesitate to stay there again!

By Linda & Jeremy



Visit the Message Boards!

The boards are one of the most popular places on DZ. You can post questions/answers and advice. Or just hang around and make some new Friends!

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Please note:

Disneyzone (DZ) is not affiliated with Disney in any way. We are a group of Disney enthusiasts who want to help you in making your next Disney

Early Entry

Don't forget to take advantage of Early Entry privileges for Disney resort guests!

It's a great way to get in some park time prior to scheduled park opening times. You can get quite a bit done in that time!

The schedule is as follows:

Sunday - Magic Kingdom

Monday - Animal Kingdom

Tuesday - MGM

Wednesday - Epcot

Thursday - Magic Kingdom

Friday - Animal Kingdom

Saturday - MGM

Pass the Good News Around to all your Disney friends!

Disney with Kids vs. Just Adults

by the Gelson family

We recently returned from our second trip to WDW. We went the first time back in 1990 so we were shocked at how much more there was this time around. I had read a few guide-books and had been visiting many websites before our trip, but I still felt very amazed at the differences between our two trips.

We were just married on our first trip, now we have 3 kids. The entire experience was so different from our first trip. We stayed at the Polynesian Resort which is wonderfully beautiful.

My children never wanted to leave the resort. They loved the pool area. I could usually get them out by talking about the monorail. We used it as an attraction several times. The kids really enjoyed it.

When you are going just as adults, you spend time walking through shops, taking your time enjoying meals, strolling around looking at details of things. You stop to watch musicians. When you go with three small kids you don't get to enjoy any of those things. It's a totally different experience. We were lucky to get to sit down much at all.

The kids wanted to run from ride to ride. Our youngest (2.5 years old) was the leader most of the time. He would see something in the distance and begged to go to it. So we usually would. The older two kids (4 and 9) were just so happy to be at WDW they were game for just about anything.

No parades, no shows, no fireworks for us this trip. The kids just didn't have patience to sit. They wanted to go, go, go and do, do, do. We went full speed ahead from morning until about 8pm when everyone was ready to crash into bed. Our little guy took only 3 naps the entire week. He was so excited about it all, just couldn't waste the time to sleep!

It was a great trip, we got to see things in a totally different way, we came home exhausted, but everyone has great memories of flying through the parks!

Restaurant Review

Olivia's at Old Key West
by Tom G.

Olivia's is one of my favorite restaurants. You don't hear of it much, mainly because it's not the easiest place to get to. It's worth the time, trust me.

It's located in Old Key West, where we are DVC owners. We ate there the first time because we were just starving and it was there. Now it's one of our favorite spots.

This is not a cafeteria or a mad-house character buffet. It's a nice sit-down restaurant. It is comfortable, the service is very good. You will never feel rushed.

They make a few special dishes.

I know everyone I have ever spoken to loves the Conch Shell Chowder. My personal favorite is their crab cakes and their prime rib. Both items just melt in your mouth. My wife brags about their potatoes and their desserts.

The prices are fair, and you get quite a bit for your money. I don't know that you'll need reservations. We never have them and rarely have to wait more than 10 minutes for a table.

Find your way to Old Key West Resort and have a nice delicious relaxing meal at Olivia's!

Inexpensive Souvenirs

I have given these suggestions on the message boards but would like to share with the newsletter community, too.

Here are some ideas for inexpensive souvenirs to bring home to co-workers, friends, or neighbors.

We had to buy many small souvenirs for the kids friend's, our neighbors who were watching our house, co-workers, and people like that. We didn't want to spend too much, but wanted to get something these people would use and/or appreciate. Here is what we ended up buying.

We got cute pens, thick ones with colorful decorations for my young-

est child's friends (about \$4). Pins for a my daughters friends (about \$8-10). We bought keychains (\$4-6) and antenna balls (about \$3) for most of the adults. We got hats (about \$18) for some of my husbands co-workers. We got our neighbors cute coffee mugs (about \$12).

Another great tip is to have these items shipped home. We bought all items at the big Disney Store in Downtown Disney and they offered shipping for a very fair price. They boxed everything up and sent it to our house. I dont recall the exact amount but it was less than \$20 and it was worth every penny. No worries about getting the stuff home!

Fantasmic! Dinner Package

Fantasmic Dinner Package at
Mama Melrose

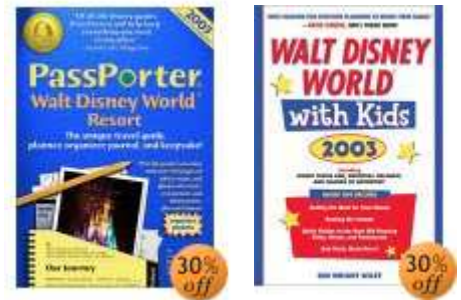
We traveled to Disneyworld in October with our son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren. It was their first trip to the World so we wanted them to see Fantasmic which in my opinion is the best show at Disney. With the children we thought it was best to purchase the dinner package. We chose Mama Melrose because we had never eaten there before.

The dinner package consisted of a flatbread pizza of your choice for the table as well as a family style

salad and warm rolls with pesto. All was excellent.

Next you had a choice of any entree on the menu followed by dessert. Adults had Tiramisu and the children had gelato. The entree we chose was baked chicken parm with spaghetti. We thought that was okay....we've had better, but still good. The Tiramisu was really good!!

This dinner package is pricey, but beats waiting in line for 2 hours. When we go to dinner we don't order appetizers, salad, entree and dessert. We usually do salad



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and an entree. It was a lot of food!

We found the service to be very slow. In fact we had to ask for the check so we could hurry to the show and just barely made it. You have to arrive there by 7PM for the 7:30 show.

If anyone has not seen Fantasmic make sure you make plans to attend. This show is great! If you have children you may consider the dinner package, if I had to do it again I would purchase a dinner package rather than stand in line.

Brandi

All articles in this issue were submitted by DZ visitors who entered a recent contest. We are proud to be able to publish their articles in the newsletter. There are still a couple more, would you like to write one? Please do! Email it to us at: [dznews@disneyzone.net](mailto:dznews@disneyzone.net)

## Tell your friends about Disneyzone!

They can get their own copy of the DZ News emailed to them each month. All they have to do is go to the site and register. They will automatically be put on the list. If you would rather, you may print it out or just forward it!

## DZ - The FRIENDLY Place for Disney World Info and Advice!

### DZ Kids

This letter is dicated to Mommy from Katie, age 4.

I love mommy and mommy loves me, too. Mommy is a good mommy. She loves daddy, too. Mommy made daddy go to Deezeewood (Disneyworld) on the summertime. I love that place. They have lots of ice cream and they have candy and they have Pooh there, too.

I love that castle and I love that ride of Pooh. Some people there are bad and they throw trash on the floor and then gum gets smooshed on daddy's shoe. I dont like gum on daddy's shoe no more. I love Pooh and he loves to give me hugs and write his name on my hat, too. Thats enough.

### Contests...

DZ has a great contest that just ended. One lucky DZ visitor won round trip towncar (Orlando airport to Disney area) transportation!

Go enter the next contest by visiting the contest page!

Contest Page:

[www.disneyzone.net/contest.htm](http://www.disneyzone.net/contest.htm)

- play and you could win a cool prize!

If you would like to donate a prize, please contact us! [prizes@disneyzone.net](mailto:prizes@disneyzone.net) - You get some advertising on the site in exchange for your donation!

### Advertising

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#### Current Rates:

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One phone number OR a website address included and not included in word count. Interested? Please email us at [advertising@disneyzone.net](mailto:advertising@disneyzone.net)

## Happy Birthday to . . .

Erin, Kristin-11, Josey-39, Leo-62, Ann, Brandon, Shane, Ryan-3, Cameron-41, Mari-49, Pauline, Steven, Chris, Bradley, DJ-7, Courtney-4, Justin, Alexander-9, Molly, Randy-32, Sara, Daniel-12, Skye, Kyle-19, Victoria, Isabella-2, Jason, Marina-15, Amanda-4, Johnny, Kieran, Todd and Meriah-13.

To have birthdays listed, please send an email to [birthdays@disneyzone.net](mailto:birthdays@disneyzone.net)

Ages are optional!



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## Towncar/Limo Services

Dear Disney Traveler:

My name is Marlies Bredel, President of **Selective Limousine**. We are a women owned transportation company established in 1993. Our main objective is to provide excellent customer service.

Our fleet consists of Towncars, Vans, Limousines and Minibuses. All Transportation include children's name on a welcome sign. We offer a special appearance by Mickey (stuffed) in our Limousines along with movies and refreshments.

Call us at **(800)730-0211** or at our website [www>SelectiveLimo.com](http://www.SelectiveLimo.com)

Sincerely,  
Marlies Bredel

## Radio Stations

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