

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014

MEMORIAL DAY RUNAWAY: THE INDY 500

WATCH THE RACE, THEN DO A CIRCUIT OF INDY'S BEST



In case you missed Jazz Fest and the Derby, there's still time to take part in one of the country's biggest weekends.

And this one is much closer to home.

This Memorial Day, head down to Indianapolis for the Indy 500 and get a taste of Americana.

Indy 500

Get up early on race day (Sunday, May 27) to catch a pre-race DJ set from world-renowned Italian DJ Benny Benassi in the Indy Speedway's "Snake Pit", where booze, food trucks, and body painting combine for a raucous experience not unlike Mardi Gras.

\$30 and up [here](#). Indianapolis Motor Speedway, 4790 W. 16th St. (317-492-8500)

Crash Pad

Unless you want to sleep in your car (which you can do for \$30 at the Speedway), we suggest high-tailing it to the [Castlewood Suites](#). Full suites with kitchens and a gazebo grill for your Memorial Day cookout meld with a scenic location along the White River. Starting at \$213 per night. 1152 N. White River Pkwy. W. Drive. (877-226-3539)

Nature Escape

Escape the madness of the Speedway exploring [White River State Park](#), which also houses the Indianapolis Zoo, NCAA Hall of Champions Museum and an outdoor concert venue amidst 250 acres of open green space lined with contemporary art. 801 W. Washington St. (800-665-9056)

Eat the Town

For a romantic dinner in dark, sexy style, check out [St. Elmo Steak House](#) and its Prohibition-themed lounge. The 20-ounce bone-in ribeye is a must, as is the king crab and shrimp linguine. Linger in one of the Midwest's most extensive wine cellars. 127 S. Illinois St. (317-635-0136)

Drink the Town

No trip to Indy would be complete without a visit to the [Slippery Noodle Inn](#), Indiana's oldest bar, where cheap live blues, a lively party atmosphere, and a game room with foosball offer plenty of reasons to reshape your ideas of sleepy old Indiana. 372 S. Meridian St. (317-631-6974)

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