

# WHAT'S NEW

IN LAKE CHARLES/SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA ♦ SPRING 2016



## SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA CASINO EXPANSIONS UNDERWAY



**Delta Downs Racetrack Casino & Hotel** in Vinton, La. is undergoing a \$45 million expansion project slated for completion in December 2016. The first phase was recently complete by opening **Rosewater Grill and Tavern** with a menu that includes mouth-watering steaks, seafood, cocktails and craft beer overlooking the racetrack. The centerpiece of the project is a new hotel tower, featuring 167 additional guest rooms and suites. Additionally, all 200 existing rooms and food and beverage outlets will be redesigned and their event center will be enlarged to better accommodate meeting and banquet functions.

**Golden Nugget Lake Charles**, located adjacent to L'Auberge Casino Resort, is currently adding an additional 300-room hotel tower this year, bringing the resort to 1,040 rooms. Each of the additional rooms will be over 500 square feet and will contain a five-fixture bathroom with two sinks, walk-in shower, oversized tub and a separate toilet. The \$700+ million property features 30,000 square feet of meeting space, an 18-hole golf course, 12 renowned restaurants and eight boutiques and gift shops. Visit [www.goldennuggetlc.com](http://www.goldennuggetlc.com) for details.

The **Isle of Capri** recently opened a new 13-table Poker Room in the non-smoking section of the casino. The Poker Room offers a variety of live poker games seven days a week.

In addition to the recent opening of Favorites Southern Kitchen, **L'Auberge Casino Resort's** brand new food outlet is Modern Pantry. This grab-and-go restaurant is open 24 hours and serves fresh soups, salads, sandwiches, gelato and house-made desserts plus PJ's coffee.

Visit [www.VisitLakeCharles.org/Gaming](http://www.VisitLakeCharles.org/Gaming) for more details on all gaming properties in Southwest Louisiana.

## CRAFT BREWERY RESURGENCE

Crying Eagle Brewing Co. is under construction in Lake Charles with a 15,000-square-foot facility to produce craft beer. It will feature indoor and outdoor stages, a private events space and a landscaped outdoor beer garden.

The brewery, which will occupy 10.4 acres of land near McNeese State University's Cowboy Stadium, will draw tourists to Lake Charles, help invigorate the area's economy and distribute products nationwide. In 2014, the Craft Beer Industry had a \$646 million economic impact in Louisiana.

Crying Eagle will serve seasonal hand-crafted beers and will feature a two-story tap room. The brewery will also offer tours and have live band performances. Crying Eagle Brewing is expected to open in late spring with at least three handcrafted brews to offer the public.

Being that the brewery is located in Calcasieu Parish, the name "Crying Eagle" is a nod to the region's history and culture. The Atakapa word "quelqueshue" — source of the word "Calcasieu" — means "crying eagle."



The craft beer tourism trend has been on the rise for a while, and another brewery, Rikenjaks Brewing Company, is about to make a comeback in Lake Charles, which first made its debut in the 1990s. Rikenjaks is set to make a rebirth this spring as a new venue for drinking, eating and music.

To learn more about our local breweries and other specialty craft locations visit [www.visitlakecharles.org/brewery-distillery](http://www.visitlakecharles.org/brewery-distillery).



## TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS

1. Casino Gaming
2. Creole Nature Trail All-American Road
3. Festival Capital of Louisiana with over 75 fairs and festivals
4. Year-round Golf
5. Culinary Explorations
6. Sam Houston Jones State Park
7. Charpentier Historic District
8. Museums & Art Galleries
9. Live Music
10. Cottage Shops Cultural District

LAKE CHARLES/SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

1205 N. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles ♦ (800) 456-SWLA ♦ [www.VisitLakeCharles.org](http://www.VisitLakeCharles.org)

## CITY MARKET AND DELI



One of the latest developments to downtown Lake Charles is the new City Market and Deli. Located on Dr. Michael DeBakey Drive near Lake Street in a uniquely designed building, they provide fresh deli items with a neighborhood feel.

City Market and Deli offers an assortment of food made daily in the deli, including soups, salads, sandwiches, locally-made Pops and Rockets ice pops and a locally-blended medium roast coffee from Acadian Coffee Roasters. The new business also functions as a small grocery store and includes a meat market with hand-cut steaks, pork and lamb chops. The market features organic, Louisiana-sourced fruits and vegetables.

For updates and menu items being offered daily, visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/citymarketanddeli](http://www.facebook.com/citymarketanddeli).

## CAJUN FRENCH MUSIC ASSOCIATION



The 29th annual **Cajun French Music Festival** will be held July 15-16, 2016 at the Burton Coliseum Complex. This festival aims to preserve the Cajun traditions and heritage through music, dancing, and food. Savory Cajun dishes including jambalaya, gumbo,

cracklins and more will be in high supply at this event, along with raffles, a live auction, arts and crafts booths, cake walks and games for the kids. The festival will end with a free Cajun mass on Sunday morning at the CFMA Building located at 3481 E Prien Lake Road.

The CFMA continues to work and interact with the Lake Charles community. They offer **Cajun dance lessons** on the 3rd Thursday of every month, Cajun jam sessions on the first Friday of every month as well as hosting **Cajun language classes** at the CFMA Building.

Find out more about the Cajun French Music Association Festival and community activities by visiting their website [www.cfmalakecharles.org](http://www.cfmalakecharles.org) or call (337) 794-2541.

## THE CATCH OF THE DAY HAS NEVER BEEN FRESHER

Southwest Louisiana is known for its exciting fishing adventures. Sportsmen visit the area throughout the year to enjoy some of the best fresh and saltwater fishing around with the opportunity to



catch everything from bass, bream and catfish to flounder, trout and redfish. However, one of the biggest challenges for out-of-towners is not being able to dine on their catch.

The Catch and Cook Program now allows anglers to experience the excitement of catching your fish, then having a local restaurant prepare it for you professionally only hours after coming out of the water. Several local restaurants in Lake Charles are now participating in the new and innovative program, bringing a brand new element of fishing to the table.

To find out more about the Catch and Cook Program visit [www.fishla.org/catch-and-cook](http://www.fishla.org/catch-and-cook).

## FREE CVB APPS



### LAKE CHARLES EVENTS APP

The Events app allows users to easily access a calendar of events for Southwest Louisiana.



### CREOLE NATURE TRAIL APP

The Creole Nature Trail All-American Road app is a hands-on opportunity to experience one of America's untamed natural wonders. This touring app is available in six languages.



### LAKE CHARLES HISTORIC APP

Experience the Charpentier Historic District, with a tour app that highlights the history of Lake Charles, the Great Fire of 1910 and Ghost Stories and Legends of the district. Visitors can choose 30 minute or 1 hour tours and a haunted tour. The Lake Charles Historic District tour is available in five languages.

Check out these apps and more at [www.VisitLakeCharles.org/Apps](http://www.VisitLakeCharles.org/Apps).

GET SOCIAL

FOLLOW US! @ LakeCharlesCVB

BECOME A FAN! @ VisitLakeCharles