

# Boca Grande

## Fall Festival

October 22nd—25th, 2010 — Four days of family fun — Street Festival, Art Fair, Music, Rides, Games, Antique Cars, Barbecue Cook Off, Golf Tournament and Fireworks. [bocagrandechamber.com](http://bocagrandechamber.com)



### Barbecue Cook-Off

You be the judge at this off-beat barbecue cook-off where some of the most talented, classically trained chefs in

the United States come together for an upscale barbecue smack down. The only rule is "One must barbecue". Past entries included shrimp, grouper, foie gras, blueberry barbecue sauce, and of course, ribs and brisket. You are the judge, so get ready to have a unique and delightful culinary experience.

**Golf Tournament** The Boca Grande Fall Scramble hosted by the Gasparilla Inn & Club takes place on the beautiful Pete Dye designed course overlooking Charlotte Harbor. Usually a treat reserved only for members and guests of the hotel, the once-a-year opportunity is made available to the general public to raise scholarships for area students.



**Music** The music starts the evening of Friday October 22nd and continues throughout the weekend. Street musicians fill every corner of the village for an old-fashioned walk about on Friday night. Merchants provide refreshments and a venue to greet, meet and dance in the streets. The music continues all the next day with a stage featuring beach & parrot head bands.



**Kid Stuff** Games, prizes, mascots, jump house, and the perennial favorite mechanical shark ride provide a rich experience for the younger member of the family.

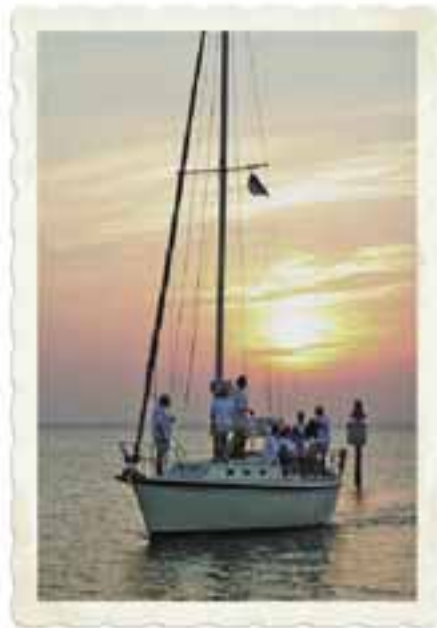
**Art Fair** Artisans from throughout the Southeastern United States display their fine art and crafts at the Boca Grande Fall Festival Street Fair. The morning of October 23, an art village of white tents spontaneously springs up in the middle of the Village where nationally recognized artists show their Jewelry, pottery, sculpture, paintings, and metal demonstrations. This is a treat for the serious art collector, the novice who appreciates eye candy or the entire family.

*Boca Grande Village* - No stop light—no high rises—no billboards—no fast food chains. Explore arts, culture and history at the many local museums and art galleries featuring creations from the many artists who call this island home. Indulge in retail therapy at one of the island's many quaint boutiques or liquid therapy at one of Boca Grande's Old Florida watering holes. Casual and fine dining restaurants serve seafood caught daily by the local captains—or better yet, bring in your own catch of the day to be prepared by one of the island's classically trained chefs. If you see a sign at the four-way stop in the village that says "The Shrimp Boat's In", head for the historic whidden's Marina and get your fresh Gulf Shrimp right off the boat.

*Biking Boca* - Everything in Boca Grande is relaxed and moves at an island pace including the preferred method of travel about the island—electric golf carts or bicycles. So, park your car and forget it. There is a seven-mile-long golf cart and bike path, and every street in the downtown area is cart-friendly. Many visitors come to the island just to spend the day cruising along the bike trail that meanders from one end of the island to the other, with breathtaking vistas at nearly every bend.



*Boating & Sailing* - The waters around Boca Grande are acclaimed as one of the top ten sailing destinations in the United States by Sailing Magazine, with 120 square miles of cruising waters. With Charlotte Harbor to the East, the Gulf of Mexico to the West and inland passages to the North and South, the area has an endless series of adventures waiting to be discovered. The upper harbor offers protected boating and the south harbor opens up to a large expanse of water that offers long stretches for a relaxing cruise. A favorite boat trip to Cabbage Key passes by several pods of dolphins waiting to play in the boat wakes.



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**Kayaking** - Kayaking in these pristine waters is a dream come true in the shallow calm waters, remote canopy-covered mangrove waterways, bayous and back-bays. Guided tours will take you back in time to a remote Calusa Indian Mound area while observing manatees, birds, and dolphins along the way. Kayak fishing guide services are available for the beginner or the experienced paddler. These waters are teeming with the catch of the day waiting to be plucked from the depths. For more information contact Grande Tours, Inc., [www.grandetours.com](http://www.grandetours.com).



*“Fishing, by its very nature, nourishes the imagination, feeding it with a potent fuel of hope & desire.”*

**Fishing** - Warm waters, gentle breezes and a guide who knows all the secret spots—the perfect combination for landing Snook, Redfish and Tarpon. A fleet of guide boats, captained by local experts will show you the “old Florida” way of fishing for offshore, back-bay, or tarpon. Many of the fishing guides are descendents of families who have lived here for generations and know these waters as well as they know the land. Eco-tours and sightseeing excursions become more popular every day. For more information contact the Boca Grande Fishing Guides Association at [www.bocagrandefishing.com](http://www.bocagrandefishing.com)

Boca Grande is known for tarpon fishing. It is the Tarpon Fishing Capital of the World. But fishing here is much more than battling the feisty silver king, especially when families fish together. Sandy Melvin has been a captain in Boca Grande for 20 years “I enjoy the excitement kids have when they’re out catching fish,” says Melvin. “We’ll catch snook, redfish, speckled trout.” He especially likes seeing kids battle lady fish. “They’ll pull hard and jump a lot.” And don’t rule out catching “the big one,” said Melvin. “I’ve had 10-year-old kids catch their first fish — and it’s a 100 pound tarpon”.



Visit the Boca Grande Area Chamber of Commerce website at [www.bocagrandechamber.com](http://www.bocagrandechamber.com) to plan your vacation. Better yet, call Boca Grande Travel, Inc. at (941) 964-0200 and have them take care of all of your travel arrangements.



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*The Boca Grande Resort, 5800 Gasparilla Rd, Boca Grande, FL 33921*



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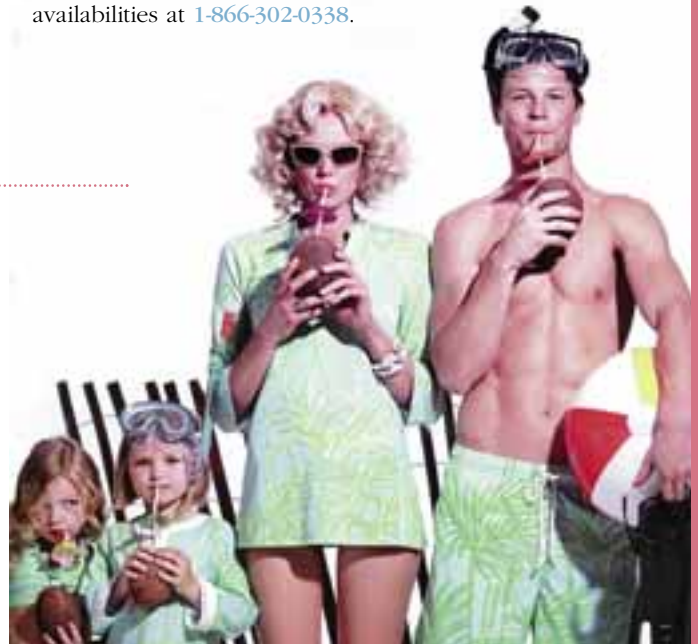
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## GASPARILLA INN & CLUB

Founded in 1913, the historic Gasparilla Inn & Club offers a true taste of "old Florida." Located in the heart of Boca Grande, the charming island resort offers 140 charming rooms and suites, within The Inn and surrounding private cottages. The signature Pete Dye golf course is the crown jewel of the resort. Guests can also enjoy a game of tennis on one of the seven Har-Tru courts, a croquet match on a USCA-certified lawn, a refreshing swim in the beachfront pool located at the private Beach Club or indulge in a wide array of massages and treatments featured at The Gasparilla Inn Spa and James Griffith Salon.

The historic resort also features a wide variety of dining venues and menus to accommodate a wide variety of palates. The Main Dining Room offers Master Chef Peter Timmins traditional heritage cuisine and the more casual Pink Elephant specializing in local and regional seafood and steaks and other American classics.

The Gasparilla Inn has played host to many notables throughout its history, including Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Thomas Edison, Katharine Hepburn, the George H.W. Bush family, members of the duPont family and others. With its rich traditions storied history, The Inn has always been the center of village life on the island.

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## SISTERS RESTAURANT

Sister's Restaurant is located at 480 E. Railroad in Boca Grande, Florida. It is owned and operated by twin sisters Lisa and Paula.

It is a family run business which includes their chef, Monte Caputo who completed culinary school in Napoli, Italy. There isn't just one dish as Monte's specialty, they're all great!

Their Italian-American cuisine consists of pizza (the best in Florida), piccata's, fresh grouper, and seafood dishes. The sister's motto is, "Let our family serve your family", in beautiful Boca Grande. 941.964.2002



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