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Record-Breaking Jockeys and Derby-Worthy Horses Take Over Golden Gate
Free concerts, Kentucky Derby and wine festival pack the events calendar this season

Berkeley, Calif. – Northern Californians looking for world-class Thoroughbred racing don't need to go far this spring, as the legendary [Golden Gate Fields](#) kicked off its season on December 26 and proves once again that some of the best racing happens right here at home. Alongside great racing, fans this season will catch main events for all, from free concerts and a Kentucky Derby celebration to events for the whole family.

[Russell Baze](#), the world's winningest jockey and a more than 30-year Northern California resident, will break a new world record with each victory – almost daily – adding to his nearly 11,500 career wins. Newly inducted hall of fame trainer [Jerry Hollendorfer](#) also returns to Golden Gate Fields to rack up more wins with his team of champion Thoroughbreds.

[Dollar Sundays](#) return each weekend this season, offering one-dollar general admission, parking, programs, beers, hot dogs, sodas and access to sporting events on 1,200 televisions, making Golden Gate Fields the biggest sports bar in the Bay Area. Dollar Sundays up the ante in May with **free live concerts** after the races.

Known for [spirited partygoers](#), Golden Gate Fields has added the following events to its lineup this season:

- **Kentucky Derby** – Watch the race while sipping mint juleps from authentic souvenir Derby glasses. Guys and gals will don their finest suits and sundresses and compete in the annual Run for Roses hat contest for cash prizes. (Saturday, May 5)
- **Preakness Stakes** – Catch live racing and a simulcast of the second leg of the Triple Crown while enjoying the track's first-ever beer fest and a \$1,000 cash giveaway throughout the day. (Friday, May 19)
- **Belmont Stakes Wine Festival** – The outdoor party will take place adjacent to the winners' circle and feature tastes from the East Bay Vintners Alliance, commemorative wine glasses, food, live jazz music and artwork on display. (Saturday, June 9)

Families can get their fill of the fun as well with a variety of kid-friendly activities:

- **Easter Sunday** – Begins with a kids Easter egg hunt in the winners' circle and also includes pony rides, face painters and brunch in the Turf Club. (Sunday, April 8)
- **Mother's Day** – Moms can celebrate their special day with a brunch in the Turf Club and a hobbyhorse 30-yard dash for children. (Sunday, May 13)

- **Wiener Nationals Dachshund Races** – Another kind of dash takes place with dachshund races in between Thoroughbred races all day long. (Saturday, May 26)
- **Heroes and Horses Day** – Salute local law enforcement and explore a helicopter, fire trucks, ambulances and motorcycles. (Sunday, June 3)
- **Hispanic Culture Day** – Celebrate part of California's history with a visit from the San Jose Earthquakes, a clown troop, money machine, live bands, cash drawings and tasty margaritas. (Sunday, June 10)
- **Father's Day** – Closing Day at the track, a brunch in the Turf Club and a live concert make for a great day for dads. (Sunday, June 17)

Racing at Golden Gate Fields takes place Thursday through Sunday, with the addition of several Monday races. Gates open at 10 a.m. and first post is at 12:45 p.m.

A free shuttle from the North Berkeley BART station is available for race-goers every day during the Golden Gate Fields season, which runs through June 17, 2012. For more information, call 510-559-7300 or visit www.goldengatefields.com. You can also follow Golden Gate Fields and all other California racetracks at www.innerjockey.com or become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalHorseRacing.

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