

NEWS RELEASE



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Mardi Gras comes to Columbia State Historic Park

This Saturday, March 5th the historic City Hotel Restaurant in Columbia State Historic Park, Tuolumne County presents Victorian splendor and fine Mardi Gras Cajun Cuisine at 6:00 pm. Guests will experience the finest Cajun Cuisine in the Mother Lode--it's a 24 karat bonanza of savory faire. The sumptuous, four course menu for the evening includes a garden salad with zesty Creole mustard vinaigrette, served with marinated onions, green beans, pecans and baby arugula; Mardi Gras chorizo and shrimp gumbo, and a choice from three entrees-- Crayfish Etouffee, "Cajun Roast of Beast" Prime Rib Roast with spicy Cajun crust, or Andouille and Chicken Jambalaya; and for dessert Bread Pudding St. Joan d'Arc. Cost per person is \$55 including tax and tip. Pianist Gayle Johnson fills the evening with Victorian romance accompanying Mark Twain portrayed by Pat Kaunert. Gayle will delight you with a goldmine of snappy ragtime remembering the mighty Mother Lode, and classical music that is hopelessly romantic. Gayle is an accomplished pianist and instructs music classes at Columbia College. Mark Twain will regale you with stories about his life and times on the Mississippi as a riverboat pilot, his adventures out West on the Comstock Lode and prospecting for local folklore right here in the Mother Lode. Mr. Twain is widely known for his great ability to tell "stretchers", and his delightful wit and wisdom is sure to not disappoint at this year's Mardi Gras dinner show.

Call 209-532-1479 for reservations. For room reservations at the historic City or Fallon Hotels or Columbia Cottages call Reserve America at 800-444-7275 or visit www.cityhotel.com.

Columbia State Historic Park is open daily from 10-5 p.m. and offers a unique blend of museums, displays, town tours, live theater, and shops. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the streets so families can explore the historic setting in safety and comfort. A visit to the City Hotel or Fallon Hotel is a glimpse into one of the most fascinating periods of America's history, as well as one of California's finest restorations. Columbia is central to various Mother Lode and Sierra attractions such as Yosemite National Park, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park, and Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Regularly scheduled programs in the park include tours of the town at 11:00am on Saturdays and Sundays. Gold Rush Days is presented on the second Saturday of each month from 1-4pm. Docents in gold rush attire will be stationed throughout town in several different buildings and on the street to converse with visitors about gold rush life.

For more information on any of the above, please contact the park office at (209) 588-9128 or www.parks.ca.gov/columbia.

Columbia State Historic Park, located in Tuolumne County, is designated as a National Historic Landmark District, and has been preserved to tell the story of the towns which arose during the California Gold Rush to serve the needs of miners. California State Parks has restored and continues to preserve over 30 of the original brick buildings along the town's Main Street.

Columbia State Historic Park annually hosts over 400,000 visitors, presents school programs for over 10,000 4th graders, and is a major tourist destination in Tuolumne County. Its many historic-style stores and restaurants are run by over 20 Concessionaires whose businesses, along with park staff and volunteers, help recreate the experience of the California Gold Rush for visitors from around the world.