



Hotels ring in the New Year in style

New Year's Eve is always an exciting time of the year. People enjoy the last hours of the year and look forward to welcoming the coming year. This is an important ritual for many, especially in the tourism industry where there is a lot of excitement, as guests and staff alike eagerly await the final ten seconds of the old year.

The Times went on an adventure to some of the places celebrating the coming of the New Year in the form of their New Year's Eve Balls. We could only stop in for a few minutes, but we took away a lot, because food was in abundance and entertainment was at its peak.

Here's how the night went:

10:45 p.m. - San Souci Resort

As we entered the festivities, we immediately realized that we were in a 'black and white' affair, as everyone was decked out in elegant black and white outfits. The party was kept outside on the lawns and rain fell, but that didn't 'dampen' their spirits as while some ran to get shelter, many reveled in the rain and danced to the music provided by Jose Salgado from Cuba, the Uzuri Ensemble, Soul 4 Soul and the backing band, Arambe. The evening was not complete without the highly entertaining performance of "Fireman" who dazzled the crowd with his manipulation of the dangerous element called fire.

The menu was incredible and the food was in great abundance. "We have five marques tents; the salad station, cold cuts and sushi, the sea food bar with crab legs, a stir fry station and a pasta station with chicken and lobster. We also have a carving station with prime ribs, the sea food station with mixed sea food, soup, bread, and a fruit and cheese station in one," said Donovan Henry, Food and Beverage manager. "We have a black and white theme because tonight, we're dealing with elegance," said Winston Carter, Evening manager.

The bar was definitely open to offer any drink of one's



Things were in full swing at Sandals Dunn's River on New Year's Eve, as patrons danced to the house band.

Continued on page 9



BLACK AND WHITE AFFAIR: Black and white was the main theme for the night, as elegance was chosen to ring in 2005.



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Continued from page 5

choice. They rang in the New Year with the music of Mark Frizes.

11:30 p.m. - Evita's Italian Restaurant

If you wanted to have a nice, quiet and satisfying way to ring in the new year, then Evita's Italian Restaurant was the place to go. The scene had a warm, family feel to it, as family, loved ones and friends filed in to ring in the New Year with fine wine and food.

The menu was spectacular; crayfish combo with spaghetti and wine was served. In buffet style, there was lobster run dung, lamb chops and lobster lasagna. The music was soothing and calm and everyone was having a good time chatting it up with those they knew and those they considered special.

11:45 p.m. - Sandal's Dunn's River

Before we even entered the ballroom, we knew that a party was going on. Everyone was clearly having a grand time, dancing and drinking, just waiting to count down. Everyone had a drink in hand!!!! Except us, of course - we were on the job! But we did manage to get our party hats and shakers.

The atmosphere was upbeat and energetic with the patrons singing songs such as Jimmy Cliff's 'Reggae Night' and The Village People's 'YMCA'. The resident band was superb. Mark Anthony's ballad, 'You Sang To Me' was played strictly for the lovers and this was the chance to dance with your 'honey' for the last five minutes of the year.

Finally it was count down time. There was a screen that paid homage to different countries of the world by showing their flags. When the shout 'Happy New Year' rang out, colourful balloons were let out on to the crowd to help spice up the festivities. Whoever knew each other hugged and wished each other best wishes for the New Year.

A midnight buffet was available to anyone who wished to ring in the New Year with food. The snack bar was also opened.

1:26 a.m. - Breezes Runaway Bay

Breezes Runaway Bay was not short of entertainment, as they had the likes of Hugado, the in house band, Rights, Inc., and a circus show that mesmerized the crowd. "The theme

for tonight is just to have fun," said Patrick Scudder, Public Relations manager. The patrons danced up a storm with loved ones and friends and eagerly awaited the final seconds of 2004.

The menu included turkey, lobster, lamb chops, cold cuts, crab claws and local favourites. "We had a champagne fountain set up 30 minutes before the countdown and the count down happened out on the terrace. We definitely had a full house," Mr. Scudder said. After the countdown, breakfast was served as a part of the New Year's treat.

FEELING HOT:

"Fireman" was one of the spectacular performers at the San Souci Resort New Year's Eve Ball.



SHAKE THAT BOOTY: These guests danced like there was no stopping them as they rang in the New Year at San Souci Resort on New Years Eve night.



The staff at Evita's Restaurant pose for the NORTH COAST TIMES at their New Years Eve dinner.

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