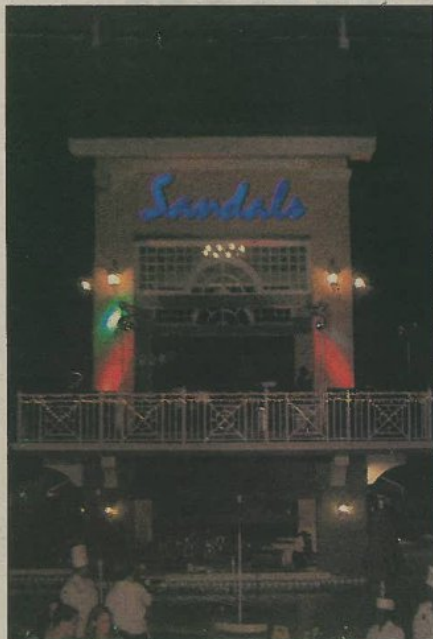




A star-studded turnout at Sandals Grande opening



The magnificent view of the tower at the newly renovated Sandals Grande Ocho Rios Beach and Villa Resort.



This guest was caught 'winning and touching her toes' at the official opening of Sandals Grande Ocho Rios. She proved that age is just a number.

resort, but that wouldn't have the pizzazz this opening has now," said Burchell Henry, Public Relations manager of the resort. He said, "With this gala, it will more effectively capture the attention of the overseas media, travel agencies and travel writers that are here tonight." The event took place in time for the weekend opening of Caribbean Market Place in Montego Bay and many officials and tour operators who were in Jamaica for that event were at the opening. According to Mr. Henry, at the time of the gala, the hotel boasted a full house, which was evident, as the opening was jam packed. "We always do well in the winter season. It's going to end up in the high 80s, low 90's. Wholesalers will now see the package and will see that the resort is great. It will sell," he said.

Approximately 25 food stations and two bars were there for the hungry or those who loved to sample good food. These stations included international and local dishes such as ackee and saltfish, fried dumplings, jerk chicken and pork, sushi, peppered shrimp, Italian dishes, among other delectable fare. There was even jerk chicken roti. Pastry was also in abundance with chocolate cake, strawberry and blueberry cheesecake, sweet potato pudding, and others.

Byron Lee and the Dragoners did a splendid job of keeping the patrons on their toes. Everyone, even members of the press were dancing to the energetic performance of the world-renowned band. Tunes like "Wine down", "Feeling hot", songs from Bob Marley such as "One Love" and "No woman nuh cry", and an oldies medley thrilled the crowd. Patrons who seemed to be old in body, somehow out-danced the younger crowd, showing that they were young at heart.

Chairman of the Sandals chain, Gordon "Butch" Stewart made a very short speech, congratulating General manager, Michael Darby, on helping to make the opening a success. He mentioned the resort's potential in being a good market place for the world and urged patrons to have fun.

Other people who were present were Joey and Asha Issa; chairman of Air Jamaica, Chris Zacca; Councillor Don Creary; Member of Parliament Karl Samuda, former MP Douglas Vaz and television personality and former Miss Jamaica/Miss World, Cindy Breakespear.

The atmosphere at Sandals Grande Ocho Rios Beach and Villa Resort's official opening can only be summed up in one word - spectacular. The newly renovated resort had its official opening on Saturday, January 8, and it was short of nothing. Food, music and great fellowship were in great abundance. Guests, Members of Parliament, television personalities, local and overseas members of the press and people from other organizations came together to help celebrate the launch of the largest Sandals property in the Caribbean.

"There was a previously slated soft opening of the

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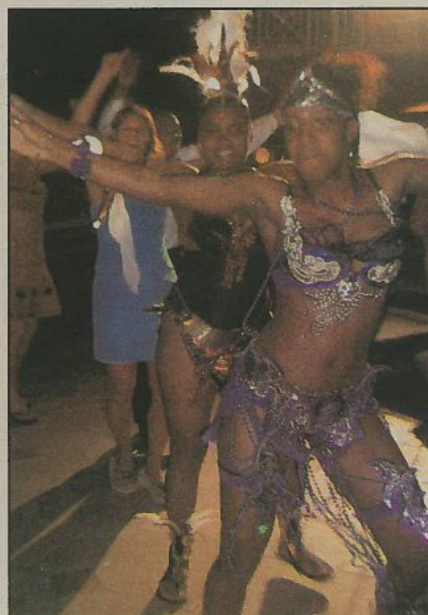
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Playmakers and guests party to the rhythms of the world renowned band Byron Lee and the Dragoners..