

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR YOUR GENERATION

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LIVING WELL *50 Plus*

ENTERTAINMENT • HEALTH • BARGAINS • LIFESTYLE

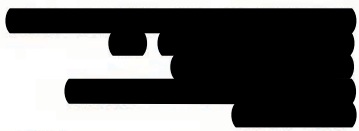
IN THE GARDEN

Planting Bulbs

Growing Herbs

celebrate

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Boone Trace:
"That Little Road"

Travel:
Silver Dollar City

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TRAVEL

Surprising Silver Dollar City

Missouri town in Ozark Mountains welcomes good sports

The pace of life at the park is slow, and everyone is there to have a good time.



by Jan Ross,
Staff Writer

Our expectations for Silver Dollar City, tucked away

in the beautiful Ozark Mountains of Missouri right outside Branson, were extremely low. Since we are not fans of amusement parks, if we had the choice we would have taken Silver Dollar City off our list completely. But we were on a press trip, it was on the schedule and we are nothing if not good sports.

Lucky for us.

Silver Dollar City was absolutely nothing like we expected, so it turned out to be the highlight of our entire visit. Although technically an amusement park, it is a unique and wonderful location. First, it looks nothing like a typical amusement park. It has meandering paths, hundreds of trees and lush foliage. Yes, there are rides – in fact, Silver Dollar City has a new \$10 million wooden roller coaster called Outlaw Run

that was voted the Best New Ride of 2013 by Amusement Today. There are plenty of other rides if that is your cup of tea. However, it is not ours.

But speaking of cups of tea, Silver Dollar City is a veritable cornucopia of culinary delights. Situated throughout the lovely rolling hills of the park are shops, restaurants and outdoor vendors, all of which provide the most amazing, tantalizing and delicious food you have ever tasted. From bakeries with fresh homemade pastries to vendors dipping from huge frying pans full of succotash, each dish is more wonderful than the last. There is even a professional culinary school that offers a variety of classes.

If you hear music, it's probably from one of the 40 live daily shows, all of which are included in your ticket price. Bluegrass, country, western, gospel – you will find it all here. The wonderful performers are very professional. In between catching shows and stuffing that delectable

food in your mouth, you can wander around the park and marvel at all the local craftsmen who have booths set up to display their wares and demonstrate their art. From glass blowing to pottery to leather work and even a blacksmith, you can spend the day learning about these talented artisans who are delighted to talk about their Ozark crafts. None of them are in a hurry. The pace of life at the park is slow, and everyone is there to have a good time.

When you're ready for a bit of adventure, take a tour of Marvel Cave, located right in the park.

Silver Dollar City owes its existence to this natural cave, which was opened as a tourist attraction in 1894. The park was literally built around the entrance to the cave. The founders realized their shops and restaurants, actually designed to keep visitors who were waiting to get into the cave, were becoming very popular, and so Silver Dollar city was born.

If you want a completely non-traditional amusement park experience, check out Silver Dollar City. You will enjoy it just as much as we did.

