

SARATOGIAN

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Saratoga Polo a feel-good time

MICHAEL KORB , For The Saratogian

SARATOGA SPRINGS -- This town is all about the feel-good moment. Whether it's a day at the track, a night on the town, a walk in the park or a concert at SPAC, we've got you and your moment covered.

But every year, David Deutsch seems to create a series of moments so special that his invited guests return to his hometown every year from across the nation and the globe.

For those of you unfamiliar with the annual David N. Deutsch Polo Cup and Saratoga Weekend, the Saratoga Springs-born Deutsch, now a New York City-based investment banker, invites friends, family and business associates from literally all over to spend three glorious days in the Spa City, where he's planned everything from business roundtables, with industries' biggest and brightest to panel discussions, to receptions and a host of other events.

Highlights of this year's weekend included Friday's 'A Conversation with Bob Bailey,' a former racecar driver, president of the Saratoga Automobile Museum and the owner of Racemark International, a leading manufacturer of car floor mats headquartered in Malta.

Later that morning, guests were part of a panel discussion titled 'From the Editor's Desk,' which covered editorial content in relation to business coverage. That evening wrapped with the always wonderful David N. Deutsch Polo Cup at Saratoga Polo. Wildwood/Tackeria defeated Mount Brilliant 11-10 behind an eight-goal night by Guilli Aguero.

Under the spacious tent, approximately 250 guests enjoyed the culinary delights of chef David Britton, including tapas of chicken, beef and shrimp satays with minted curry dipping sauce, antipasta skewers, smoked salmon mini corn dogs and assorted brushetta.

Dinner included a stunning array of choices including Teriyaki-style grilled beef sirloin with crispy shiitakes, Saratoga Polo's angry salmon with fennel slaw, beer-basted barbecued chicken with roasted potato planks, pineapple sweet and sour glazed Mahi-Mahi, just to name more than a few.

There was even a separate buffet for kids, which isn't surprising because the weekend is designed for families.

Deutsch and his wife, Lisa (a neuro-psychologist), have three young children and go out of their way to build children's activities into the weekend's events.

Among the new faces at this year's polo cup: Kim Brizzolara, a film producer currently in preproduction on 'And Then There Was Light,' starring Uma Thurman, directed by Lasse Hallstrom ('The Cider House Rules') and executive produced by Martin Scorsese. The film is based on the story of a blind hero who was part of the French resistance during World War II. Jeanne Finestone, a theatre producer and publishing company consultant; Burt Alimansky, who leads the Capital Roundtable, which produces master classes and events focused on private equity, investment banking, hedge funds, etc.; former Saratoga Springs' mayor Ken Klotz and his wife Karen (who are expecting their second grandchild in the very near future and are selling their home in Geyser Crest to move just off North Broadway); Bill and Susan Dake of Stewart's fame; Judy Holland; John Burnstein who is best known as 'Slim Goodbody' (remember the guy in the guts-stenciled leotard?); Bruce Levinsky, whom I've never seen without a hat (why is that?); Kevin Ettrich, owner of Valletta Farm in Malta and the director of Naval and Maritime Operations for the Division of Military Affairs for New York State (can you imagine those business cards?), and who recently returned from deployment in Iraq; Gwendolyn Bounds, business columnist for the Wall Street Journal and author of 'Little Chapel on the River' (and who is very dedicated to oral hygiene. I could tell you more but I'm sworn to secrecy); Lisa Bernhard, whom many of you would recognize as the entertainment reporter on the Fox News Network (she'll be reporting live from the red carpet at the Emmy Awards Sunday evening www.foxnews.com); G.R. Sam Seraphin of Fieldstone Investors; and Robert Blumenfeld of ARG Recovery.