

# Media Alert



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **FIRST TURN TOPPING OFF CEREMONY AT CHURCHILL DOWNS ON FRIDAY AT 10 A.M.**

**What:** Placement of the final steel beam of Churchill Downs' new First Turn facility will be celebrated with track officials and VIPs on hand. A tour of the construction project for media will follow. Media who plan to take the First Turn construction tour are recommended to wear long pants and closed-toe, hard-soled shoes. Churchill Downs will provide hard hats, safety glasses and hi-vis vests.

**When:** Friday, Oct. 21, 2022 at 10 a.m.

**Where:** 700 Central Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40208. Upon arrival, please follow Kentucky Derby Drive, located off Central Avenue. Proceed through the parking lot toward the First Turn. Guest parking will be provided near the white tent at the end of Kentucky Derby Drive.

**Live Look:** <https://www.senserasystems.com/public/embed/M88029828446>

## **FIRST TURN TOPPING OFF CEREMONY AT CHURCHILL DOWNS ON FRIDAY AT 10 A.M.**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022)** – Churchill Downs Racetrack will celebrate a major milestone for the construction of its new First Turn Club and First Turn Reserved Seating permanent structure with a “Topping Off Ceremony” for the placement of the final steel beam on Friday at 10 a.m. ET. Track officials and other VIPs will join general contractor Calhoun Construction for the celebration.

Set to open for the 149<sup>th</sup> running of the Kentucky Derby on Saturday, May 6, the new First Turn Club and First Turn Reserved Seating structure – a \$90 million capital investment – will introduce more than 7,300 permanent all-inclusive seats in a unique location with exclusive views of the Kentucky Derby walkover and the picturesque first turn framed by the historic Twin Spires. It replaces what was formerly known as the vineyard vines Grandstand and Section 110, which previously accommodated 3,400 temporary Oaks and Derby seats.

The First Turn Club, a modern dining experience located on the first floor, will be strictly reserved for the more than 2,000 indoor premium dining guests. Amenities include a 50,000-square foot climate-controlled hospitality venue with dining tables for eight or 10 guests complete with wagering windows, a massive wraparound video board, upscale Chef's Table offerings and dedicated bars and restrooms to the space. First Turn Club guests will have exclusive access to watch the races from a descending patio with tiered viewing rails adjacent to the track via wall-to-wall glass doors in the expansive dining room.

The First Turn Reserved Seating on the second and third floors features more than 5,300 covered and padded stadium seats, a covered open-air concession area and two concourses that create a convenient place for socializing with an outdoor racetrack view.

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“We are thrilled to be expanding our permanent seating options again in 2023,” said Sarah Contardo, Vice President of Sales and Strategy for Churchill Downs Racetrack. “The new First Turn location offers spectacular views of the track, the historic Twin Spires and the Kentucky Derby walkover by the horses and connections. We have ensured that all amenities needed to have an enjoyable, comfortable and memorable experience are included.”

Two-day Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks all-inclusive tickets for the First Turn Club premium dining area start at \$2,610 per seat, while First Turn Reserved Seating starts at \$1,261 per seat. Interested guests may contact the Churchill Downs Premium Seating Department via email at [Sales@KyDerby.com](mailto:Sales@KyDerby.com) or by calling (502) 636-4447. A Premium Seating Concierge is available to discuss Personal Seat Licenses online at <https://www.kentuckyderby.com/orphans/premium-seating-concierge-inquiry>.

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#### **ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK**

Churchill Downs Racetrack (“CDRT”), the world’s most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The saddling paddock and the stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. [www.ChurchillDowns.com](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com).

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