



The Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off is the largest free event of its kind.



however, thanks to the crowd favorite World Rib Eating Championship. In 2012, for instance, world famous competitive eater Joey Chestnut polished off eight pounds of ribs in 12 minutes; while visitors to the cook-off aren't expected to match that feat, they are expected to leave the festival licking their fingers and wanting more. For more information about the largest-of-its-kind free admission event, visit nuggetribcookoff.com.

SIP

Wash down those ribs with a nice glass of wine and a little culture at the annual Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, running from July 12 through

Aug. 25 at Sand Harbor State Park on the lake's shores. This year's season is anchored by *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, paired with periodic classical music performances from groups like the Reno Chamber Orchestra and the Reno Philharmonic. For a full schedule of events, visit laketahoe-shakespeare.com.

Belly up to the bar at one of nearby Virginia City's historic saloons, many of which have maintained the original 19th-century look from the area's days as a mining boomtown. Just 25 miles from Reno and 45 miles from Lake Tahoe, Virginia City was the most important industrial city between Denver and San Francisco during the mining



LAKE TAHOE RESORT HOTEL

For those looking to toe the line of the Nevada-California border, the nine-story Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel sits just yards from Harrah's Lake Tahoe on the California side of the state line. The all-suite hotel is in the midst of approximately \$7 million in renovations begun in early summer with the goal of transforming the 400 rooms, 10,000 square feet of meeting space and full-service restaurant and bar into a resort destination focused on connecting guests to authentic Tahoe adventures.

"The hotel has four doors and each leads to a unique Tahoe amenity—the beach, skiing, the forest and entertainment," says Bill Cottrill, director of sales and marketing since 1998. "The Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel connects our guests to all the Tahoe lifestyles and all they have to offer."

Classic Tahoe experiences like golfing one of the area's 30 courses, a gondola ride to the top of Heavenly Mountain Ski Resort or a ride on one of two 400-passenger paddleboats are all available as part of special summer packages offered through the resort. To reserve your suite, visit tahore-resorthotel.com.

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