

Reasons to skip the Super Bowl

By Michelle Higgins, New York Times

While throngs of tailgaters chug Bud Light and devour Buffalo wings near the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, and millions of other football fans gather in front of their TVs to watch the Super Bowl this year, in-the-know travelers will be sitting down to meals at some of the hardest-to-get-into restaurants in the country, skiing down empty slopes and zipping through Disney World without the usual lines.

If you're willing to skip the game, set for Sunday, here are areas where you aren't likely to run into much competition.

Restaurants

Opentable.com, the restaurant reservation site, typically seats half the number of reservations on Super Bowl Sunday that it does on the Sundays before or after. That's a bigger drop than on Oscars night.

"Super Bowl is without a doubt the single least-busy night of the year," Mario Batali, whose restaurants include Del Posto in New York and Osteria Mozza in Los Angeles, said in an e-mail. With few exceptions, he added, "you can get into any of my restos with probably less than a week's notice." (It helps that the Super Bowl is scheduled to begin at 6:30pm Eastern time, just in time for dinner.)

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