

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM S-3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

**GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

73-0664379  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

One Gaylord Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214  
(615) 316-6000  
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrants' principal executive offices)

Carter R. Todd, Esq.  
General Counsel and Secretary  
Gaylord Entertainment Company  
One Gaylord Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214  
(615) 316-6000  
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

*With a copy to:*  
F. Mitchell Walker, Jr., Esq.  
Bass, Berry & Sims PLC  
150 Third Avenue South  
Suite 2800  
Nashville, Tennessee 37201  
(615) 742-6200

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale of securities to the public:** From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

- Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  
 Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)  Smaller reporting company

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value <sup>(3)</sup>	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)

- (1) Omitted pursuant to Form S-3 General Instruction I.I.E. Such indeterminate number or amount of common stock is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices.  
(2) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act, the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.  
(3) Each share of common stock being registered hereby includes associated rights to acquire one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Gaylord Entertainment Company pursuant to our shareholder rights plan. Prior to the occurrence of certain events, the rights will not be exercisable or evidenced separately from the common stock. The value attributable to the associated rights, if any, is reflected in the value attributable to the common stock.

PROSPECTUS



## COMMON STOCK

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We may, from time to time, offer to sell our common stock in amounts, at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. Our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "GET."

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to an offering of our common stock. The specific terms and any other information relating to a specific offering will be set forth in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or in a supplement to this prospectus or may be set forth in one or more documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. In addition, certain selling stockholders to be identified from time to time in a prospectus supplement may sell our common stock that they own. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of our common stock by selling stockholders.

Our common stock may be offered and sold in the same offering or in separate offerings; to or through underwriters, dealers, and agents; or directly to purchasers. The names of any underwriter, dealer or agents involved in a sale of our common stock and their compensation will be described in an applicable prospectus supplement. See section entitled "Plan of Distribution" of this prospectus.

This prospectus may not be used to sell shares of our common stock unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement. We urge you to read carefully this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus, which will describe the specific terms of the securities offered, before you make your investment decision.

Our principal office is located at One Gaylord Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214. Our telephone number is (615) 316-6000.

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**Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider all of the information set forth in the "[Risk Factors](#)" section of our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the "Risk Factors" section beginning on page 2 of this prospectus and the "Risk Factors" section in the applicable prospectus supplement before investing in any of our common stock.**

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission or other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is August 7, 2012.

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[Table of Contents](#)

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<a href="#">ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</a>	1
<a href="#">SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</a>	1
<a href="#">THE COMPANY</a>	2
<a href="#">RISK FACTORS</a>	2
<a href="#">USE OF PROCEEDS</a>	2
<a href="#">SELLING STOCKHOLDERS</a>	2
<a href="#">PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</a>	2
<a href="#">DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</a>	3
<a href="#">LEGAL MATTERS</a>	3
<a href="#">EXPERTS</a>	3
<a href="#">WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</a>	3
<a href="#">INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</a>	3

## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Commission, using the “shelf” registration process as a “well-known seasoned issuer,” as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. By using a shelf registration statement, we may offer and sell from time to time in one or more offerings the common stock described in this prospectus. In addition, certain selling stockholders to be identified in a prospectus supplement may offer and sell from time to time, in one or more offerings, the common stock described in this prospectus. No limit exists on the aggregate number of shares of common stock that may be sold pursuant to the registration statement.

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. Neither we nor any selling stockholder has authorized anyone to provide you with information different from that contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. Neither we nor any selling stockholder takes any responsibility for, and can provide any assurance as to the reliability of, any information others may give you. This document may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus, or in any prospectus supplement, is accurate as of any date other than its date regardless of the time of delivery of the prospectus or prospectus supplement or any sale of the common stock. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

This prospectus and the information incorporated herein by reference includes trademarks, service marks and trade names owned by us or other companies. All trademarks, service marks and trade names included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

We urge you to read carefully both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, together with the information incorporated herein by reference as described under the headings “Where You Can Find More Information” and “Incorporation by Reference” before deciding whether to invest in any of the securities being offered.

Unless expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, the terms “we,” “our,” “us,” “the Company” and “Gaylord” refer to Gaylord Entertainment Company, a Delaware corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries.

## SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus (including the documents incorporated by reference) contains, and any accompanying prospectus supplement may contain, “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. All statements other than statements of historical fact are “forward-looking statements” for purposes of federal and state securities laws. Forward-looking statements include discussions regarding the Company’s operating strategy, strategic plan, hotel development strategy, industry and economic conditions, financial condition, liquidity and capital resources, and results of operations. You can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as “expects,” “anticipates,” “intends,” “plans,” “believes,” “estimates,” “projects,” “will,” and similar expressions. Although we believe that the plans, objectives, expectations and prospects reflected in or suggested by our forward-looking statements are reasonable, those statements involve uncertainties and risks, and we cannot assure you that our plans, objectives, expectations and prospects will be achieved. Our actual results could differ materially from the results anticipated by the forward-looking statements as a result of many known and unknown factors, including, but not limited to, those contained in “Risk Factors” and elsewhere in this prospectus and in the documents incorporated by reference. All written or oral forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified in their entirety by these cautionary statements. Except as required by applicable law, including the securities laws of the United States and the rules and regulations of the Commission, the Company does not undertake any obligation to update or to release publicly any revisions to forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

## THE COMPANY

Gaylord Entertainment Company, a Delaware corporation, was originally incorporated in 1956 and was reorganized in connection with a 1997 corporate restructuring. We believe we are the only hospitality company whose stated primary focus is on the large group meetings and conventions sector of the lodging market. Gaylord's hospitality business includes our branded hotels, consisting of Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee, Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center near Orlando, Florida, Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center near Dallas, Texas and Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center near Washington, D.C. We also own and operate the Radisson Hotel at Opryland in Nashville, Tennessee. Each of our award-winning branded hotels incorporates not only high quality lodging, but also significant meeting, convention and exhibition space, superb food and beverage options and retail facilities within a single self-contained property. As a result, our properties provide a convenient and entertaining environment for convention guests.

We also own and operate several attractions in Nashville, including the Grand Ole Opry, a live country music variety show that is the nation's longest running live radio show and an icon in country music. Gaylord's Nashville attractions provide entertainment opportunities for Nashville-area residents and visitors, including our Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center hotel and convention guests, while adding to our destination appeal.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Gaylord Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214, and our telephone number is (615) 316-6000. We maintain a corporate website at [www.gaylordentertainment.com](http://www.gaylordentertainment.com). The reference to our website does not constitute incorporation by reference into this prospectus of any of the information contained on our website.

## RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves risks. You should carefully consider the information included in this prospectus, together with the other information in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus, prior to making a decision to purchase shares of our common stock. You should carefully consider the risks, uncertainties and assumptions described in our annual, quarterly and current reports, including those identified in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, our Quarterly Report on form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 and in other documents that we subsequently file with the Commission that update, supplement or supersede such information, which documents are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement our intended use for the net proceeds received by us for our sale of our common stock under this prospectus. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale, transfer, distribution or other disposition of the shares of our common stock by any selling stockholder.

## SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

We will set forth information about selling stockholders, where applicable, in a prospectus supplement, in a post-effective amendment, or in filings we make with the Commission under the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference.

## PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We, or selling stockholders, may offer and sell our common stock to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. We will provide the specific plan of distribution for any shares of our common stock to be offered in supplements to this prospectus.

## DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement a description of the common stock that may be offered pursuant to this prospectus.

## LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the issuance of our common stock offered by this prospectus and certain other legal matters will be passed upon by Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, Nashville, Tennessee. Any underwriters will be represented by their own legal counsel.

## EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Gaylord Entertainment Company appearing in Gaylord Entertainment Company's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2011 and the effectiveness of Gaylord Entertainment Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

## WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Commission. Our Commission filings are available over the Internet at the Commission's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The Commission's website is included in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement as an inactive textual reference only. The information contained on the Commission's website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement and should not be considered to be part of this prospectus unless such information is otherwise specifically referenced elsewhere in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. You may also read and copy any document we file at the Commission's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330 to obtain information on the operation of the public reference room. We also make available, free of charge, through our website our annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information, including amendments thereto, as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the Commission. Our website address is [www.gaylordentertainment.com](http://www.gaylordentertainment.com). Our website address is provided as an inactive textual reference only. Information contained on or accessible through our website is not part of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement and is therefore not incorporated by reference unless such information is otherwise specifically referenced elsewhere in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement.

## INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The Commission allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the Commission will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below (except the information contained in such documents to the extent that it is "furnished" and not "filed" in accordance with SEC rules):

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 filed with the Commission on February 24, 2012.

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[Table of Contents](#)

- Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and June 30, 2012 filed with the Commission on May 9, 2012 and August 7, 2012, respectively.
- Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the Commission on April 3, 2012, to the extent that information included therein is deemed “filed” with the Commission under the Exchange Act.
- Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on January 17, 2012, February 7, 2012, May 11, 2012, May 31, 2012 (two filed that day), June 1, 2012, June 21, 2012, June 27, 2012, July 19, 2012, and August 7, 2012 (three filed that day).
- The description of our common stock set forth in Form 10/A-3, filed on August 29, 1997, and as updated in Item I on our Schedule 14A, filed with the Commission on April 5, 2001, and a description of rights to acquire one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of the Gaylord Entertainment Company pursuant to our shareholder rights plan set forth in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A and Current Report on Form 8-K, both filed on August 13, 2008, as amended by our Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A and Current Report on Form 8-K, both filed on March 10, 2009.
- All documents filed with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act on or after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we are not incorporating by reference any information furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K (including financial statements or exhibits relating thereto furnished pursuant to Item 9.01), under, and to the extent specified in any such Current Report on Form 8-K.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom this prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request, at no cost, a copy of any and all of the information that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Requests for such documents shall be directed to:

Gaylord Entertainment Company  
One Gaylord Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214  
Attn: Corporate Secretary  
Telephone: (615) 316-6000

**PART II**

**Information Not Required in Prospectus**

**Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The following table sets forth an estimate of the fees and expenses payable by us in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered hereby (other than any underwriting discounts and commissions). All amounts shown are estimates:

	Amount to be paid
SEC Registration Fee	\$ *
Legal Fees and Expenses	**
Accounting Fees and Expenses	**
Printing Fees and Expenses	**
Miscellaneous	**
Total	\$ **

\* In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act we are deferring payment of the registration fee for the securities offered by this prospectus.

\*\* Since an indeterminate amount of securities is covered by this Registration Statement, the expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the offered securities are not currently determinable.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

**Delaware General Corporation Law.** Subsection (a) of Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or the DGCL, empowers a corporation to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the person's conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that the person's conduct was unlawful.

Subsection (b) of Section 145 of the DGCL empowers a corporation to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and except that no indemnification may be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in



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## [Table of Contents](#)

which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper.

Subsection (d) of Section 145 of the DGCL provides that any indemnification under subsections (a) and (b) of Section 145 (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the present or former director, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances because the person has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 145. Such determination shall be made, with respect to a person who is a director or officer at the time of such determination, (1) by a majority vote of the directors who are not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, even though less than a quorum, or (2) by a committee of such directors designated by majority vote of such directors, even though less than a quorum, or (3) if there are no such directors, or if such directors so direct, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion, or (4) by the stockholders.

Section 145 of the DGCL further provides that to the extent a present or former director or officer of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 145, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection therewith; that such expenses may be paid by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such director or officer to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that such person is not entitled to be indemnified by the corporation as authorized in Section 145 of the DGCL; that any indemnification and advancement of expenses provided by, or granted pursuant to, Section 145 of the DGCL shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the indemnified party may be entitled; that any indemnification and advancement of expenses provided by, or granted pursuant to, Section 145 shall, unless otherwise provided when authorized or ratified, continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of such person's heirs, executors and administrators; and that the corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity, or arising out of such person's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liabilities under Section 145.

Section 102(b)(7) of the DGCL provides that a certificate of incorporation may contain a provision eliminating or limiting the personal liability of a director to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, provided that such provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a director (i) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the DGCL, which concerns the unlawful payment of dividends or an unlawful stock purchase or redemption, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

**Organizational Documents.** Our restated certificate of incorporation provides that no director shall be personally liable to the Company or its stockholders for monetary damages, for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability to the extent provided by applicable law (a) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (b) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or knowing violation of law, (c) under Section 174 of the DGCL, which concerns the unlawful payment of dividends or an unlawful stock purchase or redemption, or (d) for any transaction from which the directors derived an improper personal benefit.

Our restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws each grant our directors and officers a right to indemnification to the fullest extent authorized or permitted by the DGCL (as now or hereafter in effect) for all expenses, liabilities and losses reasonably incurred by each director or officer who was or is made, or is

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[Table of Contents](#)

threatened to be made, a party or witness to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding (whether civil, criminal or otherwise) by reason of the fact that while they are or were our directors or officers, they are or were serving at our request as directors or officers of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise, in any capacity. Notwithstanding the foregoing, except for proceedings to enforce rights to indemnification, we are not obligated to indemnify any director or officer in connection with any proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such persons unless such proceeding (or part thereof) was authorized or consented to by our board of directors. The right to indemnification in our restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws includes the right to have expenses incurred by officers and directors in defending or otherwise participating in any proceeding in advance of its final disposition upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such director or officer to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he or she is not entitled to be indemnified by us as authorized in our organizational documents. Our bylaws provide that such expenses incurred by former directors and officers may be so paid upon such terms and conditions, if any, as we deem appropriate.

Our restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that any repeal or modification of the limitation of liability and indemnification provisions summarized above will only be prospective and will not affect the rights of current or former directors or officers under these provisions in effect at the time of the alleged occurrence of any acts, omissions, facts or circumstances occurring prior to such repeal or modification.

These descriptions of director liability and indemnification provisions are intended as a summary only and are qualified in their entirety by reference to our restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws, each of which has been filed with the Commission.

**Indemnification Agreements.** We are parties to indemnification agreements between us and each of our directors and officers. These indemnification agreements are intended to complement the indemnification protection under the DGCL and our organizational documents and to provide for indemnification of these directors to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

**Directors' and Officers' Insurance.** We maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was an officer or director against claims or liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not we would have the power or the obligation to indemnify him or her against such liability under our organizational documents.

**Item 16. Exhibits.**

See the "Exhibit Index" which follows the signature pages to this Registration Statement and is incorporated by reference herein.

**Item 17. Undertakings.**

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
  - (i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
  - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the

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[Table of Contents](#)

changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the “Calculation of Registration Fee” table in the effective registration statement;

- (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*provided, however,* that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:
- (i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
- (ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however,* that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.
- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this Registration Statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:
- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

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[Table of Contents](#)

- (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
  - (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
  - (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.
- (b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer, or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.
- (d) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933:
- (1) the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this Registration Statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of this Registration Statement as of the time it was declared effective; and
  - (2) each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, Gaylord Entertainment Company certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized in the City of Nashville, State of Tennessee on August 7, 2012.

**Gaylord Entertainment Company**

By: /s/ Colin V. Reed  
Colin V. Reed  
*Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer*

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Carter R. Todd, as his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for such person and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any or all further amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement on Form S-3, and any subsequent registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent, or his substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated. This document may be executed in counterparts that when so executed shall constitute one registration statement, notwithstanding that all of the undersigned are not signatories to the original of the same counterpart.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Colin V. Reed</u> Colin V. Reed	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ Glenn J. Angiolillo</u> Glenn J. Angiolillo	Director	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ Michael J. Bender</u> Michael J. Bender	Director	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ E.K. Gaylord, II</u> E.K. Gaylord, II	Director	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ D. Ralph Horn</u> D. Ralph Horn	Director	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ David W. Johnson</u> David W. Johnson	Director	August 7, 2012

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[Table of Contents](#)

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Ellen R. Levine</u> Ellen R. Levine	Director	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ Terrell T. Philen, Jr.</u> Terrell T. Philen, Jr.	Director	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ Robert S. Prather, Jr.</u> Robert S. Prather, Jr.	Director	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ Michael D. Rose</u> Michael D. Rose	Director	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ Michael I. Roth</u> Michael I. Roth	Director	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ Mark Fioravanti</u> Mark Fioravanti	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	August 7, 2012
<u>/s/ Rod Connor</u> Rod Connor	Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)	August 7, 2012

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b><u>EXHIBIT NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>
1.1**	Form of Underwriting Agreement.
4.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Gaylord Entertainment Company, as amended (restated for SEC filing purposes only) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Gaylord Entertainment Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (File No. 1-13079)).
4.2	Second Amended and Restated Bylaws of Gaylord Entertainment Company (restated for SEC filing purposes only) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to Gaylord Entertainment Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 dated May 7, 2009 (File No. 1-13079)).
4.3	Certificate of Designations of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Gaylord Entertainment Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Gaylord Entertainment Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 13, 2008 (File No. 1-13079)).
4.4	Specimen of Gaylord Entertainment Company Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Gaylord Entertainment Company's Registration Statement on Form 10, as amended on June 30, 1997 (File No. 1-13079)).
4.5	Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, dated as of March 9, 2009, between Gaylord Entertainment Company and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as Rights Agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Gaylord Entertainment Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 10, 2009 (File No. 1-13079)).
4.6	Amendment No. 1, dated as of August 12, 2011, to the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, dated as of March 9, 2009, between Gaylord Entertainment Company and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Gaylord Entertainment Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 12, 2011 (File No. 1-13079)).
5.1*	Opinion of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC regarding the legality of the securities being registered.
23.1*	Consent of Ernst & Young, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
23.2*	Consent of Bass, Berry & Sims (included in Exhibit 5.1 above).
24.1*	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page to this Registration Statement).
*	Filed herewith.
**	To be filed by post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement or incorporated by reference from documents filed or to be filed with the Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.



150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800  
Nashville, TN 37201  
(615) 742-6200

August 7, 2012

Gaylord Entertainment Company  
One Gaylord Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214

**Re: Registration Statement on Form S-3 of Gaylord Entertainment Company**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Gaylord Entertainment Company, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), in connection with its filing of a Registration Statement on Form S-3 (the "Registration Statement") with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), for the purpose of registering with the Commission shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock"). The Common Stock may be issued in an unspecified number of shares, at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more prospectus supplements to the prospectus contained in the Registration Statement.

In connection with this opinion, we have reviewed the Registration Statement and the exhibits thereto. We have also examined and relied upon such records, documents, certificates and other instruments as we have deemed necessary or appropriate for purposes of this opinion. In such examination, we have assumed the authenticity of original documents and the genuineness of all signatures, the conformity to the originals of all documents submitted to us as copies, and the truth, accuracy and completeness of the information, representations and warranties contained in the records, documents, instruments and certificates we have reviewed.

We have also assumed that at any time the Common Stock is sold pursuant to the Registration Statement (i) the Registration Statement, and any amendments thereto (including post-effective amendments), will be effective under the Securities Act, (ii) a prospectus supplement will have been filed with the Commission describing the Common Stock offered thereby, (iii) all Common Stock will be issued and sold in compliance with applicable federal and state securities laws and in the manner stated in the Registration Statement and the applicable prospectus supplement, (iv) a definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement with respect to any Common Stock offered will have been duly authorized and validly executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto, and (v) there will be sufficient shares of Common Stock authorized under the Company's organizational documents and not otherwise reserved for issuance.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing qualifications, assumptions and limitations and the further limitations set forth below, we are of the opinion that when (i) duly authorized by appropriate corporate action of the Company (including the Board of Directors of the Company or an authorized committee thereof), and (ii) issued, sold and delivered against payment therefor in accordance with such authorization, the applicable definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement approved by the Board of Directors of the Company (or an authorized committee thereof) and in the manner and for the consideration stated in the Registration Statement and the applicable prospectus supplement, and such consideration per share is not less than the par value per share of the Common Stock, then the shares of Common Stock offered by the Registration Statement will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.



The opinions expressed herein are limited to the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware and the federal laws of the United States of America. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, we express no opinion with respect to (i) state securities or "blue sky" laws or (ii) state or federal antitrust laws.

This opinion is given as of the date hereof, and we assume no obligation to advise you after the date hereof of facts or circumstances that come to our attention or changes in law that occur which could affect the opinions contained herein. This opinion is being rendered for the benefit of the Company in connection with the matters addressed herein.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion with the Commission as an exhibit to the Registration Statement in accordance with the requirements of Item 601(b)(5) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act and to the use of our name therein and in the related prospectus which forms a part of the Registration Statement under the caption "Legal Matters." In giving such consent, we do not hereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the reference to our firm under the caption "Experts" in this Registration Statement (Form S-3) and related Prospectus of Gaylord Entertainment Company (the "Company") for the registration of its common stock and to the incorporation by reference therein of our reports dated February 24, 2012 with respect to the consolidated financial statements of the Company and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of the Company, included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2011, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Nashville, Tennessee  
August 7, 2012