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Fabulous Fashion Week foods and cocktails

BY RACHEL WHARTON

Wednesday, September 5th 2007, 4:00 AM

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Whether or not models actually eat, there's no need for them to go hungry over the next two weeks.

Thanks to mountains of free food, fountains of Champagne and plenty of after-parties, nobody at the Bryant Park tents has to starve, sleep or stay sober.

High-brow sponsors from Peroni to Nespresso (they're the ones supplying the coffee) are seeing to that.

Here's the highlights of what the designers, celebs and fashionistas will be eating, should they so choose, during Fashion Week.

Chambord

Just like 2006's fashion fest, a pink, French, black-raspberry booze will be the liqueur of the moment. This year Chambord is packing miniversions of their regal-looking bottle into gift bags and mixing three cocktails at most runway-side bars and related lounges: The French martini (Finlandia vodka and pineapple juice), the Chambord Walk (Finlandia and club soda) and a French Manhattan (Woodford Reserve Bourbon, a splash of bitters and a cherry).

Rioja

Fashion Weekers won't soon forget Rioja. Not only will the wines from this Spanish region (in the northern mountains) be poured at every bar under the tents, the winemakers are outfitting their servers in special Rioja red-striped dresses, to boot. You might catch a glimpse outside Bryant Park, too, as Union Square Wines and others host tastings.

Eleni's cookies

Last year, UPS handed out brownies backstage. Now DHL ups the ante with its very own Eleni's cookies, made and decorated by the screen-printing sweets masters in Chelsea Market. Cute as can be, these come dressed as DHL trucks and little packages. Talk about sweet deliverance.

Pop Burger

Truly hungry fashionistas should head to the W Lounge. Word is the hotel chain is serving patties from Pop Burger at both their Bryant Park hangout and at backstage parties for shows like Diesel and Betsey Johnson. Three with cheese, please.

Automatic espresso pod machines

A caffeine-fix under the tents is no problem: Nespresso has brought plenty of their automatic espresso pod machines and flavored coffees. Meanwhile, they're staffing a tent-side cafe with baristas from their Madison Ave. flagship. We'd suggest the Liégeois - it's an iced coffee with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Peroni

Even when the Champagne is flowing, some folks prefer a brew, and that goes for Fashion Week, too. For the next three weeks, a beer will mean Peroni. Like Champagne and Chambord, this Italian quaff will be everywhere. Salute!

Moët & Chandon

Nothing keeps a model happier than unlimited Champagne, and the bubbly of choice is Moët & Chandon. The French maker is unveiling the 2000 Grand Vintage at the tents, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. It will be mixed into cocktails, stuffed into gift bags (like last year's, above) and passed in the form of minibottle splits, each with an open flute that fits right into the bottle. Meanwhile, personalized crystal bottles will go to certain designers like Eve.

Smoked salmon on lemon black bread

Over at the MetLife booth, the focus is on nourishment: Thanks to catering company All About Food, highlights of their spreads - they're also hosting parties for shows like Snoopy in Fashion - will include muffins in the mornings, cheese straws in the afternoon and smoked salmon on lemon black bread.

'wichcraft

Given its Bryant Park location, the key caterer for Fashion Week food is always 'wichcraft. They stick with what they know best: cheese platters, fruit salads and, of course, sandwiches. They're perfect, says executive chef and partner Sisha Ortuzar, because when "you're sitting in a chair getting your hair done, you can still eat it." The Lotus Lounge, run by the Meatpacking District hot spot of the same name, has already placed their order: peanut butter and jelly, smoked ham, smoked salmon and slow-roasted pork.



Watts/News

Model Amanda Keach Alter wears Rioja red for Fashion Week wine sponsor Rioja.



Chambord



Moët & Chandon gift bag



Pop Burger



Nespresso espresso machines



'wichcraft sandwiches

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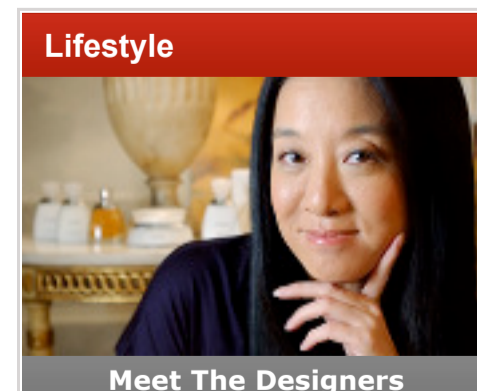
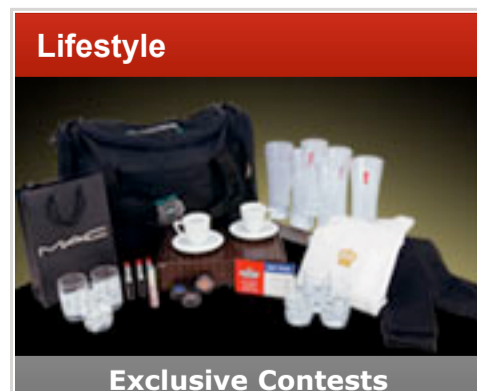
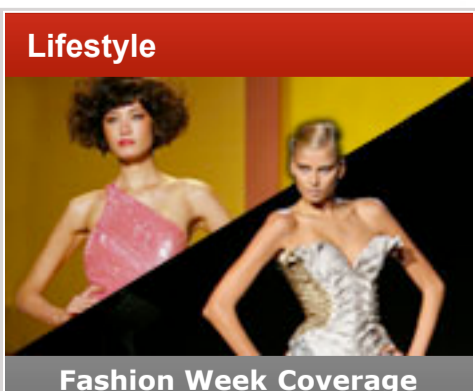
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