



Concours d'Elegance / Where: Ault Park / When: Sunday, June 14 / Why: Because who doesn't want to look at a bunch of classic cars... [Image: Leah Zipperstein / Cincinnati Refined]

26 Can't-Miss Festivals of Summer

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by ERICKA MCINTYRE

Summer, summer, summer time!

We wait anxiously each & every year, and now... **it's here!** Taste of Cincinnati always kicks it off, Riverfest wraps it up, and in between, there's plenty of classic Queen City fun to be had.

Here's a list of some of the best festivals where you can get your share of those summer essentials -- culture, music, art, and food from around the world. (More specifically: funnel cake, beer, sun, any kind of food on a stick, melted ice cream, a case of nausea from the Tilt-a-Whirl, a hard-won stuffed animal, and oh yeah... lots of memories!) **JUNE**

JULY

Northside 4th of July Parade and Rock n' Roll Carnival Where: Hoffner Park (Hamilton Ave., Northside) When: Thursday, July 2 -- Saturday, July 4 Why: The Northside 4th of July Parade is the funnest and funkier in town. Hoffner Park hosts a 3-day festival with food, beer, and great music. I never miss it! **Red, White, and Blue Ash** Where: Blue Ash Summit Park (4335 Glendale-Milford Rd., Cincinnati) When: Saturday, July 4 Why: Huge family-friendly July 4th celebration with awesome fireworks, and this year... the Doobie Brothers! **St. Rita School for the Deaf Festival** Where: St. Rita School for the Deaf (1720 Glendale-Milford Rd., Cincinnati) When: Friday, July 10 -- Sunday, July 12 Why: It's a Cincinnati summer tradition, and it's for a great cause -- the St. Rita School. This celebration is over 100 years old, and gets better every year. **Bacon, Bourbon, and Brew Festival** Where: Festival Park Newport (Riverboat Row, Newport, KY) When: Friday, July 10 -- Tuesday, July 14 Why: Dude, the answer is in the name... Bacon? Bourbon? Beer? You had me at *bacon*. Oh, and *bourbon*. Oh, and *beer*. **St. Cecilia Parish Festival** Where: St. Cecilia Church (3105 Madison Rd., Cincinnati) When: Friday, July 17 -- Sunday, July 19 Why: Love the Bingo tent at this fest. (Warning: I go full-on grandma!) And this year, there's a Frank Sinatra tribute on Sunday. Bingo and The Chairman of the Board? Fuhgeddaboutit! **Holy Cross-Immaculata Festival** Where: Holy Cross-Immaculata Church (30 Guido St., Mt. Adams) When: Friday, July 31 -- Saturday, August 1 Why: This beautiful Mt. Adams church is host to a great summer shindig. I love drinking a beer and looking out over our magical city. Chances are, you will too!