

Nashville Rocks!

Stars will swarm the South's sizzling Music City for the 2004 Country Music Association Awards on November 9 (8 P.M., CBS)



Former Nashvillian Shania Twain (at the 2003 CMA Awards) will present at the CMAs this year.

Why it's hot Nashville is the center of the country-music universe! Dolly Parton, Faith Hill and Tim McGraw (who have houses in posh suburb Brentwood, as does Niki Taylor), LeAnn Rimes and Martina McBride are all based in the cosmopolitan Tennessee capital. "Besides being a great songwriting community, it has a lot of home to it," Kenny Chesney tells *Us*. "It's a big town and a small town all at once." **What to do** Hit the honky-tonk bars on historic Broadway (background photo), enjoy fried chicken and biscuits at the city's soul-food restaurants, check out Elvis's gold-plated piano at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum (615-416-2001) or visit the famous Grand Ole Opry House — which plays host to the 38th Annual CMA Awards, where stars from Shania Twain to Toby Keith are expected.



WHERE TO SHOP

Jamie

Faith Hill and Martina McBride stock up on Gucci and Prada at Jamie, which also has cryogenic fur storage and a chic spa! (615-292-4188)

The Perfect Pair

CMA award nominee Julie Roberts is a fan of the leather Allison Burns bags (from \$265) at this hot accessories boutique, co-owned by Ronnie Dunn's daughter Whitney. (615-385-7247)

Nashville-raised Reese Witherspoon will play Music City icon June Carter Cash in the upcoming Johnny Cash biopic, *Walk the Line*. "I grew up in the home of country music," Witherspoon has said. "I always wanted to be a country singer."

Katy K Designs ▼

Steven Tyler has shopped at the Western-wear spot; Loretta Lynn ordered two of owner Katy Kattelman's custom outfits. (615-297-4242)



WHERE TO PARTY

BarTwenty3

It's ultramodern and serves up hip white-chocolate martinis (\$8), but when Kid Rock is here he orders Coors Light. David Blaine gets Shirley Temples! (615-963-9998)

Tootsie's Orchid Lounge

CMA award nominee Terri Clark got her start at this classic honky-tonk, said to be haunted by Hank Williams's ghost. (615-726-0463)



Virago ▼

John Corbett, who has been in town cutting a country album, has whet his whistle here, and the chic spot recently hosted a party for a local magazine's 25 most beautiful Nashvillians list, attended by No. 1, Niki Taylor (inset). (615-320-5149)



WHERE TO EAT

Park Café ▼

Keith Urban has thrown his CMA parties at this "creative American" (with a bit of soul) bistro, where regular Dolly Parton loves the mac 'n' cheese (\$3.50). "She's the sweetest!" says manager Lisa McCarter. (615-383-4409)

Zoës Kitchen

LeAnn Rimes digs the grilled chicken plate (\$7.50) and Sheryl Crow likes the Greek salad (\$6.50) at this casual Greek eatery. (615-627-0800)



Tim McGraw and Faith Hill

WHERE TO STAY

Hermitage Hotel ▼

The city's poshest! Jack White and Loretta Lynn toasted her new album in the lobby in April; Mel Gibson (inset) gets the presidential suite. Rooms start at \$199 a night. (615-244-3121)

Loews Vanderbilt Hotel

The jukebox in celeb-friendly Loews plays songs exclusively by former guests — like Faith Hill and Usher. Rooms start at \$199. (615-320-1700)



Gaylord Opryland

Tanya Tucker's first child was reportedly conceived at this Grand Ole Opry neighbor! Rooms start at \$179. (615-458-2871)

