

Andretti Indoor Karting & Games blends adrenaline with state-of-the-art tech

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A new indoor entertainment racing center has opened its doors in Katy. Andretti Indoor Karting & Games, located at 1230 Grand West Boulevard, in Katy, featured its soft opening Monday and is now open to the public. Named for the iconic racing family, Andretti Indoor Karting & Games offers the latest technology in entertainment racing and gaming.

The 90,000 square foot facility is packed with activities focused around racing and gaming. Every feature, from the virtual reality battlefronts to the eponymous race tracks, features an authentic sensory experience. Even the air smells like the friction of rubber screeching around a track.

The racing arena is the main attraction, with over half a mile of race tracks. There are three different courses. The Mini-Mario is designed for drivers 3 and older with a height requirement of 48-inches. The carts have a maximum speed of four miles per hour, making it safe for small racers.

The junior and intermediate track is open to drivers ages 7 and older and 12 and older, respectively. The cars travel at a speed of up to 25 miles per hour.

The adult course is only for drivers ages 15 and older with a state-issued driver's license. These cars have a maximum speed of 35 miles per hour. Kimberly Weaver, a tour guide at Andretti explained, "That doesn't sound very fast, but believe me, on an indoor track when you're just a few inches from the ground, it's very intense."

The entertainment is about more than just racing, however. The Hologate VR simulator transports players to another world through the use of an HTC Vive headset, running track and 360-degree treadmill platform. The Hologate Blitz is similar to the Hologate VR, but in this attraction, players engage in an arena with a motion simulator that can tilt players up to 30 degrees.

A 2,000 square foot laser tag attraction pits players against each other in an interactive enclosure with customizable weapons. The ropes course and zipline suspend players above the gaming and laser tag arena for a birds-eye-view of the action, combined with the physical challenge of scaling a narrow walkway.

For gamers, the arcade area features state-of-the-art gaming attractions with a few nostalgic favorites like Pac-Man and Asteroid. Even those games have a modern twist, however. The Pac-Man interface at Andretti is the largest Pac-Man game in the world.

The center has two full bars that offer beer, wine and liquor. The main bar is surrounded by high definition televisions tuned to sports and game channels. For hungry gamers, the venue features three food trucks with American, Asian and Italian cuisine. The main bar also functions as a full-service restaurant with custom, fresh-made entrees.

Admission to Andretti Indoor Karting & Games is free, and all the attractions are pay-to-play, so Weaver encourages everyone in the community to stop by - even the non-gamers. "With our bars and dining selections, we want people to come by to grab a drink and watch the games with friends, even if you don't feel like playing," she said. "We want to be a destination for anyone looking for a good time."

Andretti Indoor Karting & Games also offers 4,600 square feet of private dining space for corporate events, birthday parties and other celebrations. The grand room, which can accommodate up to 370 guests, has modular walls so it can be cordoned for privacy in almost any configuration.

For more information, visit www.andrettiindoorkarting.com

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