

# Food Network's Guy Fieri spotted at Hendersonville restaurant

By Eric Miller

HENDERSONVILLE STAR NEWS

Diners who stopped by to pick up lunch from Café Rakka in Hendersonville Wednesday found themselves at a filming of an upcoming episode of Food Network's *Diners, Drive-ins and Drives*.

The show's host Guy Fieri and the Oak Ridge Boys were on scene to check out the restaurant's cuisine, known locally for its authentic Mediterranean fare.

Filming paused while Fieri met with the Oak Ridge Boys and posed with them in the convertible Camaro featured in *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*.

Fieri told the Oak Ridge Boys he'd been a longtime fan.

"I love listening to you guys," Fieri said. "I know all the old songs."

Before returning to work, Fieri took some time to speak to and pose for pictures with young fans March Martin, 12, Kell Martin, 9, and Solomon Golden, 8.

"I love his show," said March Martin, a self-described "huge fan." "I think he's genius, he's awesome, his hair's amazing. I watch him every day."

Kell and Solomon echoed his sentiment.

"I can't believe I got to talk to him," Kell Martin said.

"It was a spectacular, awesome adventure," said Solomon Golden, son of Oak Ridge Boy William Lee Golden.

Becky Abutarb, of Portland, said she stopped by the restaurant to pick up her lunch when she spotted Fieri.

"He makes everything look fabulous," she said. "He makes me want to go to the restaurants he goes to."

As for the restaurant, Abutarb said it is her favorite place to go



Fans Solomon Golden, 8 and March Martin, 12, get a thrill sitting in Guy Fieri's red Camaro. Fieri was at Café Rakka in Hendersonville on Wednesday filming a feature for the Food Network's *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*. Also pictured in the background are Oak Ridge Boys William Lee Golden and Duane Allen. JENNIFER EASTON / HENDERSONVILLE STAR NEWS

for Mediterranean food.

"It's very authentic," she said.

Oak Ridge Boy Joe Bonsall said dining options are better in Hendersonville now than they used to be, when one had to drive to Nashville to eat at a non-chain restaurant.

"The cool thing to me is not only do we have big chains here, but we also have great local restaurants," Bonsall said.

Bandmate Duane Allen said

he's a fan of Café Rakka, particularly of their red tea.

"I like all the dips and different seasonings they have," Allen said.

Filming for Fieri's show has reportedly taken place at undisclosed locations in Nolensville, Hillsboro Village and along Nolensville Road.

Reporter Jennifer Justus contributed to this story.

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