

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC
 Form 3
 December 05, 2006

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
 Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *		2. Date of Event Requiring Statement	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â Collins Valerie K		(Month/Day/Year)	DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC [DRI]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE,Â P.O. BOX 593330		12/01/2006	(Check all applicable)	
(Street)			<input type="checkbox"/> Director	<input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner
ORLANDO,Â FLÂ 32859-3330			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	(give title below)	(specify below)
			SVP, Corp. Controller & CIO	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person
				<input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	33,371	D	Â
Common Stock	1,163	I	Savings Plan

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of	5. Ownership Form of Derivative	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
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	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	11/26/2000	05/26/2010	Common Stock	1,616	\$ 12.4792	D	Â
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	06/21/2002 ⁽¹⁾	06/21/2010	Common Stock	33,488	\$ 10.5	D	Â
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	11/25/2001	05/25/2011	Common Stock	900	\$ 19.14	D	Â
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	06/20/2003 ⁽¹⁾	06/20/2011	Common Stock	34,500	\$ 17.09	D	Â
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	06/19/2004 ⁽¹⁾	06/19/2012	Common Stock	23,000	\$ 27.27	D	Â
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	06/19/2005 ⁽¹⁾	06/19/2013	Common Stock	20,000	\$ 19.32	D	Â
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	06/15/2006 ⁽¹⁾	06/15/2014	Common Stock	22,000	\$ 21.16	D	Â
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	06/16/2007 ⁽¹⁾	06/16/2015	Common Stock	22,000	\$ 33.095	D	Â
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	06/15/2008 ⁽¹⁾	06/15/2016	Common Stock	15,271	\$ 35.805	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Collins Valerie K 5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE P.O. BOX 593330 ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330	Â	Â	Â SVP, Corp. Controller & CIO	Â

Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for VALERIE K. COLLINS, 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330, Darden Restaurants, Inc. (DRI)

12/05/2006

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) The option vests in three equal annual installments beginning the date indicated.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, See Instruction 6 for procedure.

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