

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC  
 Form 4  
 September 18, 2007

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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 \*  
 DONALD ODIE C

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC [DRI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 09/14/2007

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

(Street)  
 ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock				(A) or (D) Price	10 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 42.44	09/14/2007		A	3,000	09/14/2008 09/14/2017	Common Stock	3,000
Phantom Stock Units	(2)	09/15/2006		A	2,393	(3) (3)	Common Stock	2,393

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
DONALD ODIE C 5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE P.O. BOX 593330 ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330	X			

## Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for DONALD, ODIE C., 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330 09/18/2007

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(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) Represents common stock acquired pursuant to a dividend reinvestment feature of the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Direct Advantage Investment Program.
- (2) The actual conversion rate is 1-for-1.
- (3) The Reporting Person elected to defer all of the annual Director's compensation grant under the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Director Compensation Program, to be paid out in Darden Restaurants, Inc. common stock upon the reporting person's termination of board service.
- (4) Includes phantom stock units acquired pursuant to a dividend equivalent reinvestment feature of the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Director Compensation Program.

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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