SASTRE MARIA Form 4

September 23, 2005

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

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

Section 16.

Form 4 or

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

1(b).

(Last)

(City)

1. Title of

Security

(Instr. 3)

Common

Stock

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

SASTRE MARIA

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC

[DRI]

X_ Director

Issuer

below)

10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify

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

09/21/2005

(Month/Day/Year)

(Middle)

DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330 (Street)

09/21/2005

(First)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

(Instr. 8)

A

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

D

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

ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

5900 LAKE ELLENOR

(State) (Zip) 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Beneficial Ownership Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

Reported

(A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4)

\$0

Code V Amount Price (D)

Α

2,612

(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

14,851

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

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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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number proof 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)		
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$ 28.715	09/21/2005		A	3,000	09/21/2006	09/21/2015	Common Stock	3,000	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
• 0	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
SASTRE MARIA						
5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE	X					
P.O. BOX 593330	Λ					
ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330						

Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for SASTRE, MARIA A., 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330

09/23/2005

**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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

Reporting Owners 2