

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 <b>and</b> 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)

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**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 <sup>(1)</sup> | 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 <sup>(1)</sup> | 06/20/2011      | Common Stock | 34,500                     | \$ 17.09            | D                                               | Â |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 06/19/2004 <sup>(1)</sup> | 06/19/2012      | Common Stock | 23,000                     | \$ 27.27            | D                                               | Â |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 06/19/2005 <sup>(1)</sup> | 06/19/2013      | Common Stock | 20,000                     | \$ 19.32            | D                                               | Â |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 06/15/2006 <sup>(1)</sup> | 06/15/2014      | Common Stock | 22,000                     | \$ 21.16            | D                                               | Â |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 06/16/2007 <sup>(1)</sup> | 06/16/2015      | Common Stock | 22,000                     | \$ 33.095           | D                                               | Â |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 06/15/2008 <sup>(1)</sup> | 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<br>5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE<br>P.O. BOX 593330<br>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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