

Top Taco Festival announces winners

by [Helen Freund](#)

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COURTESY TOP TACO

The inaugural Top Taco New Orleans festival took place March 23 at the Riverwalk's Spanish Plaza.

A traditional taqueria in Kenner took home top honors at the [Top Taco New Orleans](#) festival March 23.

Taqueria Chilangos (2723 Roosevelt Blvd., 504-469-5599) was named top traditional taco by both the judges and people's vote. Judges (including this one) voted for their favorites from more than 40 restaurants competing in categories including top creative taco, top traditional margarita and top creative tequila cocktail.

The festival at Spanish Plaza was modeled on a similar event in Denver, Colorado. It sold out and raised more than \$20,000 for One Heart NOLA, which helps raise awareness and funds for foster children.

Winner in the top creative taco category, [Blue Oak BBQ's](#) Tex-Mex taco was filled with sliced brisket, salsa negra, avocado cream, fried plantain and pickled red onions. The people's choice award for top creative taco and top traditional margarita went to [Johnny Sanchez](#), for its fried oyster taco and mezcal margarita.

The full list of winners in all categories is below:

Judge's Choice

Traditional Taco:

First Place – Taqueria Chilangos
Second Place – Canal Street Bistro
Third Place – Felipe's Taqueria

Creative Taco:

First Place – Blue Oak BBQ
Second Place – Kingfish
Third Place – La Casita

Traditional Margarita:

First Place – Mizado
Second Place – Johnny Sanchez
Third Place – Carreta's

Creative Tequila Cocktail:

First Place – Mizado
Second Place – Del Fuego
Third Place – Butcher

People's Choice:

Traditional Taco:

First Place – Taqueria Chilangos
Second Place – Tequila House
Third Place – Felipe's Taqueria

Creative Taco:

First Place – Johnny Sanchez
Second Place – The Rum House
Third Place – Velvet Cactus

Traditional Margarita:

First Place – Johnny Sanchez
Second Place – Mizado
Third Place – Nacho Mama's

Creative Tequila Cocktail:

First Place – Tequila House
Second Place – Masquerade
Third Place – Barcardia

Ultimate Top Taco:
Taqueria Chilangos