

New Orleans Living

MARCH 2017



EDITORIAL LETTER

Your Guide to March Living

As New Orleans welcomes spring, we are already in the throes of festival season. Mardi Gras is just barely behind us, and now we are all looking forward to St. Patrick's Day (and the accompanying parade in the Irish Channel). Be sure to read about a local family's experience with this parade in **Lindsay Maloan's** Moms column, and check out **Kim Ranjbar's** Libations for Locals column for a few local watering holes that specialize in whisky.

Of course, this month also sees the return of the **BUKU Music + Art Project** (thebukuproject.com) March 10-11. Now in its sixth year, BUKU features a star-studded talent roster complemented by an array of visual art installations, pop-up street performances, and local food and craft vendors. The musical lineup includes GRIZMATIK, San Holo, deadmau5, Cashmere Cat and many others. Tickets start at \$100.

Also this month, New Orleans welcomes two brand new festivals: the **Top Taco Festival** (toptaconola.com) and the **New Orleans Bourbon Festival** (neworleansbourbonfestival.com). The Top Taco Festival takes place March 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Riverwalk's Spanish Plaza. The inaugural taco and tequila festival will benefit One Heart NOLA, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds and awareness for the city's foster children. General admission tickets are \$65; VIP tickets are \$125. Meanwhile, the New Orleans Bourbon Festival takes place March 24-26 with a bevy of events at the Sugar Mill and Marriott

Convention Center (prices vary). Festivities will include a marketplace with an array of Bourbon-centric products; two grand tasting events from the world's finest distilleries; live panels with some of the greatest names in the bourbon industry; and a bourbon jazz brunch. A portion of the festival proceeds will benefit St. Michael Special School, an educational facility that teaches students ages six through adulthood with special needs.

And be sure to catch a special one-night-only performance by **Bryan Ferry** at the Saenger Theatre March 16. Ferry is heralded as one of the most innovative and critically acclaimed artists in modern times, and he is revered and respected by his fans and peers alike. Read all about him in this month's Celebrity Feature by **Christine Fontana**.

In our Meet + Greet section, we introduce you to three locals who are living a life of passion by following a career path they love. **Brik Allen**, who transformed a high school job in retail clothing into a desire to create fashion himself, is now a rising star on the Fashion Week circuits. Meanwhile, **Christina Walsh** is building relationships and changing lives with a "gentle touch" physical therapy alternative called Integrative Manual Therapy. And finally, a man who needs little introduction, **Sterling Constant** is the longest-serving waiter at the oldest restaurant in the city — Antoine's.

Enjoy these and many more topics in our March issue! And as always, here's to happy and safe festing!

