

Early Bird Discount Tickets Now On Sale For Top Taco Festival

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NEW ORLEANS – A limited number of Early Bird tickets are now available at discounted prices for the highly anticipated Top Taco Festival Presented by Paddlewheeler Creole Queen, the inaugural taco

and tequila festival benefiting One Heart NOLA, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds and awareness for the city's foster children.

The event takes place on Thursday, March 23, at Riverwalk's Spanish Plaza along the Mississippi River, at 6:30 p.m.

Through Tuesday, Feb. 14, General Admission discounted passes are \$50 per person; First Tasting tickets are \$75 and include early entry; and VIP discounted tickets are \$110 per person, which includes early entry plus the VIP experience on the Paddlewheeler Creole Queen.

Local restaurateur Shane Finkelstein of Nacho Mama's is bringing Top Taco to the Crescent City – a New Orleans edition of the highly successful Top Taco Denver, which launched in 2013 and has since become the number one summer food festival in that city. Sponsored by Corona; Hilton Riverside Hotel (offering discount rates for Top Taco attendees); Outlet Collection at Riverwalk; and Performance Food Group, which is unveiling its new Mexican food line, Contigo, Top Taco NOLA will bring foodies and philanthropists together to sip and sample gourmet creations from over 40 of New Orleans hottest chefs and mixologists.

Rounding out the evening will be live entertainment from Los Poboycitos and Afro-Cuban jazz and groove band Otra, a silent auction and the chance to crown winners in four categories: Top Creative Taco, Top Traditional Taco, Top Creative Cocktail and Top Traditional Margarita.

Chefs from restaurants such as Johnny Sanchez, Patois, Jacques Imo's, Lucy's Retired Surfer Bar, Bourbon House, Juan's Flying Burrito, Mizado, Blue Oak BBQ, Carreta's and Superior Grill – among many others – will be paired with tequilas and spirits including Don Julio, Avion, Casa Noble, 1800 Tequila, Exotico, Milagro, Ghost Tequila and others to create festive and flavorful cocktails.

In the private VIP Lounge aboard the Paddlewheeler Creole Queen, guests can enjoy a full open bar, exclusive tequila tastings and one-of-a-kind culinary creations from Vincent's, Cowbell, Chiba, Horn's, Tracey's and Midway. Tasty confections from Norma's Bakery and Laurel Street Bakery will be paired with innovative libations featuring Patron XO. VIPs will also enjoy private performances by Mariachi Jalisco US and Margie Perez's Latin band Muevelo.

[For more information](#)