

Top Taco Festival in NOLA Spring 2017

EVENTS, INDUSTRY NEWS, NEWS



INAUGURAL TOP TACO FESTIVAL LANDS IN NEW ORLEANS MARCH 23, 2017

Save the Date for Tacos, Tequila and Live Entertainment to Benefit One Heart NOLA

TOP TACO

This spring, Crescent City locals and visitors will be able to indulge in an evening filled with tacos and tequilas when the inaugural **Top Taco** festival lands in **Riverwalk's Spanish Plaza on Thursday, March 23, 2017**. A

collaborative effort by the team behind the highly successful Top Taco Denver and local restaurateur **Shane Finkelstein**, Top Taco NOLA will feature tantalizing tacos from forty of the city's best restaurants, along with handcrafted tequila cocktails and top notch live entertainment. A portion of the proceeds will benefit **One Heart NOLA**, a charitable organization that raises funds and awareness for New Orleans' foster children.



Top Taco Denver launched in 2013 and has since become the number one summer food festival in the city. "I've always wanted to do a taco festival. When I attended Top Taco in Denver a couple of years ago, I was really impressed by all of the incredible talent that participated and knew immediately this would be a great addition to New Orleans' festival scene", says Finkelstein, festival director and proprietor of NOLA restaurant Nacho Mama's. "Combine all of the incredible chefs we have in our city with amazing tequila, great live entertainment and the Mississippi River as a backdrop and it is certain to be a memorable night."

Sponsored by **Southern Eagle Beverage**, **Hola Nola** tortillas and **Performance Food Group**, the evening will feature **forty (40)** restaurants that will compete for People's Choice and Judge awards in four categories: *Top Creative Taco*, *Top Traditional Taco*, *Top Creative Cocktail* and *Top Margarita*.

An additional ten (10) restaurants will be showcased in the private **VIP Lounge**, aboard the **Paddlewheeler Creole Queen**, where guests can enjoy one-of-a-kind culinary creations, exclusive VIP tequila tastings, live music by **Mariachi Jalisco US** and Margie Perez's Latin band **Muevelo**. "Since it's our first year," said Finkelstein, "I really wanted to blow people away with the VIP experience." The family-owned riverboat does annual charity events for CASA, the foster children advocacy group, so they were very excited about the opportunity to help raise money for One Heart NOLA.

Confirmed restaurants to date include: **Mizado**, **Jacques Imo's**, **Rum House**, **Araña**, **Velvet Cactus**, **Tacos and Beer**, **Del Fuego**, **Patois**, **Canal St. Bistro**, **Chiba**, **Cowbell**, **Vincent's**, **Nacho Mama's**, **La Casita**, **Felipe's**, **Blue Oak BBQ** and **Horn's**. Restaurants will be paired with tequilas and spirits including **Sauza Hornitos**, **Patron**, **Tres Generaciones**, **Casa Noble**, **El Tesoro**, and **Cointreau** to create festive and flavorful cocktails.

Live entertainment will include performances by NOLA's famed Latin ensemble **Los Poboycitos** and Afro-Cuban jazz and groove band **Otra**.

Top Taco NOLA will take place on **Thursday, March 23, 2017** at **Riverwalk's Spanish Plaza** in New Orleans. Stay up to date on information and ticket sales at www.toptaconola.com and follow on social media at www.facebook.com/TopTacoNOLA. For sponsorship information or to become a participating restaurant please contact Shane Finkelstein at shane@toptaconola.com or call **504-237-5667**.