

Early-bird tickets on sale for Top Taco New Orleans fest



Felipe's taquerias are among those that will be serving food at Top Taco NOLA, March 23, 2017, in Riverwalk's Spanish Plaza. (Photo from NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune archive) (c)



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Folks who love tacos and tequila can take advantage of early-bird discounted tickets for the inaugural [Top Taco New Orleans festival](#), through Feb. 14. The event is March 23 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Riverwalk's Spanish Plaza.

The food festival, presented by Paddlewheeler Creole Queen, is a collaborative effort of New Orleans restaurateur Shane Finkelstein and those who put on [Top Taco Denver](#), a popular summer festival in Colorado.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit [One Heart NOLA](#), a charitable organization that raises money and awareness for New Orleans' foster children.

Confirmed restaurants include: [Arana](#), [The Backyard](#), [Bacobar](#), [Barcadia](#), [Bayou Burger And Sports Company](#), [Blue Oak Barbecue](#), [Bourbon House](#), [Brugger's Barbecue with Barrel Proof](#), [Canal Street Bistro](#), [Carreta's Grill](#), [La Casita](#), [Cellar Door](#), [Chilangos](#), [Del Fuego](#), [Felipe's](#), [Hilton New Orleans](#), [Jacques Imo's](#), [Johnny Sanchez](#), [Juan's Flying Burrito](#), [La Mezcla](#), [Los Jefes](#), [Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar](#), [Mizado](#), [Nacho Mama's](#), [Patois](#), [Rum House](#), [Superior Grill](#), [Tacos & Beer](#), [Tequila House](#) and [Velvet Cactus](#).

Vendors will compete for recognition for people's choice and judges awards for top creative taco, top traditional taco as well as top creative cocktail and top margarita.

The tacos will be paired with tequilas and spirits, such as Don Julio, Avion, Casa Noble, 1800 Tequila, Exotico, Milagro and Ghost Tequila.



Top Taco New Orleans festival set for March 23

The 40 restaurants will compete in four categories: top creative taco, top traditional taco, top creative cocktail and top Margarita.

A VIP Lounge aboard the Paddlewheeler Creole Queen will feature performances from Mariachi Jalisco US and Margie Perez's Latin band Muevelo as well as an open bar, tequila tastings, and cocktails from Vincent's, Cowbell, Chiba, Horn's, Tracey's and Midway. Desserts from Norma's and Laurel Street bakeries will be paired with Patron XO cocktails.

Early bird tickets are available at discounted prices and will be sold until Feb. 14. General admission discounted passes are \$50 per person. First Tasting tickets are \$75 and include early entry. VIP discounted tickets are \$110 per person which includes early entry plus the VIP experience on the Paddlewheeler Creole Queen.

After Feb. 14, tickets will \$65 for general admission, \$85 for tasting, \$125 for VIP.

Prices are all-inclusive of food and drinks.

To [purchase tickets](#) or for more details, visit [TopTacoNOLA.com](#), or visit the Facebook page at [Facebook.com/TopTacoNOLA](#).