Top Taco Festival

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The Top Taco festival started in Denver four years ago and quickly became one of the largest food festivals in Colorado. The New Orleans version, which premieres on March 23, will host a competition featuring gourmet tacos and tequila cocktails from 40 restaurants, including Barcadia, Blue Oak BBQ, Bourbon House, Canal Street Bistro, Cochon Butcher, Del Fuego, Drago's, Jacques-Imo's, Johnny Sanchez, Juan's Flying Burrito, Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar, Mizado, Nacho Mama's, Patois, Superior Grill and many others. People’s Choice and Judge awards will be awarded in four categories: Top Creative Taco, Top Traditional Taco, Top Creative Cocktail and Top Margarita. The festivities will take place at Spanish Plaza at the Riverwalk on Thursday, March 23, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The collaboration with Top Taco Denver and local restaurateur Shane Finkelstein will incorporate live music by Los Po-Boy-Citos, Otra, Mariachi Jalisco US and Muevelo, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting One Heart NOLA, a charitable organization that raises funds and awareness for New Orleans’ foster children.

*Tickets range from general admission at $65, which includes a taco and tequila tasting; 1st Tasting at $85, allowing early admission; and VIP at $125, with both early entry and a private party with an open bar aboard the Creole Queen. Tickets at toptaconola.com.*