

Top Taco festival coming to New Orleans next Spring

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NEW ORLEANS -- First came Fried Chicken Fest, now New Orleans is getting ready for the first Top Taco festival.

New Orleans will indulge on tacos, tequila and everything else included in a Taco Tuesday splurge when the Top Taco Festival premieres on March 23, 2017.

The Top Taco Festival premiered in Denver in 2013 and inspired the owner of Nacho Mama's restaurant in New Orleans to bring the festival to the Crescent City. "I've always wanted to do a taco festival," Shane Finklestein, the festival director said. "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."

Forty restaurants will compete at the festival for the prize of People's Choice and judge awards for Top Creative Taco, Top Traditional Taco, Top Creative Cocktail and Top Margarita.

Ten more restaurants will be featured in a private VIP lounge on the Paddlewheeler Creole Queens where guests will taste one-of-a-kind culinary creations, exclusive tequila tastings and live music.

The festival will raise money for One Heart NOLA, [a charitable foundation focused on helping children in need](#).

Restaurants already scheduled to serve food at the festival 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 March 23, 2017 at the Riverwalk's Spanish Plaza. For more information, visit [Top Taco NOLA's website](#).