



**SIXTH ANNUAL VISIT LAUDERDALE FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL RETURNS
JANUARY 13-19, 2025 WITH SEVEN DAYS OF DINING, CLASSES,
CULINARY BATTLES AND A STELLAR CELEBRITY CHEF LINEUP**

Greater Fort Lauderdale's Top Food Festival Announces Featured Talent at The Grand Tasting and Signature Events Where Guests can Unleash Their Inner Foodie as They Delight in Broward County's Culinary Renaissance

IMAGES: [HERE](#)

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA — (JULY 2024) – [The Visit Lauderdale Food & Wine Festival](#) (VLFWF) is excited to announce The Grand Tasting and lineup of signature events as it returns for its sixth annual event series from Monday, January 13 through Sunday, January 19, 2025. The week-long celebration offers a vibrant array of signature events, culinary classes, and an exclusive dinner series, all dedicated to showcasing the dynamic culinary scene of Greater Fort Lauderdale. Owned and produced by 66 Productions, this premier festival focuses on the region's renowned and emerging chefs, restaurateurs, and local food and beverage establishments. The 2025 headline celebrity personalities and chefs include Fabio Viviani, Nancy Fuller, Jason Smith, Alex Belew, and social media personality Alexa Santos of @alexawhatsfordinner. Together, these culinary luminaries promise unforgettable cooking demonstrations and an abundance of exceptional flavors at the festival.

Demonstrations will be provided by Chef Fabio Viviani, renowned from "Top Chef" and revered for his Italian culinary prowess, who brings his charismatic flair and expertise; Chef Alex Belew, the winner of "Hell's Kitchen" Season 21 and Head Chef at Gordon Ramsay's Hell's Kitchen restaurant at Caesars Atlantic City, is acclaimed for his innovative approach to modern American cuisine; and Alexa Santos, known for her easy, approachable, and delicious recipes, was a contestant on Hulu's "Secret Chef" cooking competition show. She has also served as a food editor and senior producer at @thefeedfeed, and was a prominent talent at @buzzfeedtasty.

Signature event hosts include Food Network stars Nancy Fuller, known for her show "Farmhouse Rules" and as a judge on "Holiday Baking Championship" and "Spring Baking Championship;" and Jason Smith, famed for his Southern-inspired cuisine. Smith, a self-taught chef and baker, won Food Network's "Holiday Baking Championship" and currently serves as a judge on "Best Baker in America" and "Worst Bakers in America."

"Greater Fort Lauderdale has become a mecca for culinary innovation, and the Visit Lauderdale Food & Wine Festival is the perfect way to celebrate this resurgence," said Stacy Ritter, President and CEO of Visit

Lauderdale. "We're excited to bring together our community to showcase the incredible talent and flavors that make our region unique, all while supporting a great cause."

The festival's centerpiece event, ***The Grand Tasting***, unfolds on Saturday, Jan. 18, at Las Olas Oceanside Park. It showcases over 100 tastings, celebrity chef demos, and live music. General admission grants unlimited tastings and access to seminars, while VIP tickets provide early entry and exclusive lounge amenities. Closing out the festivities on Sunday, Jan. 19 is ***Picnic in the Park presented by Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital***, a family-friendly affair at Las Olas Oceanside Park, offering a relaxed atmosphere where attendees will enjoy a curated lineup of food trucks, hands-on culinary classes for the whole family, kid-friendly cooking demonstrations, live entertainment, the JDCH Kid's Zone, and local artisan vendors.

The Visit Lauderdale Food & Wine Festival showcases an enticing array of signature events starting Wednesday, Jan. 15 with ***Bar Fight! A Spirited Competition*** at Rooftop @1WLO. This lively event features top mixologists battling against one another in a scenic rooftop setting, offering guests an exciting evening of innovative cocktails and spirited competition. Continuing the festivities on Thursday, Jan. 16, ***Wok 'n Roll***, taking place at Backyard FTL, promises a fusion of flavors with Asian-inspired cuisine paired with vibrant live music, creating a dynamic atmosphere for culinary exploration. On Friday, Jan. 17, ***BBQ at the Beach presented by Demesmin & Dover*** takes center stage in its new home at Las Olas Intracoastal Promenade Park, hosted by Celebrity Chef Jason Smith. Attendees can relish in mouthwatering barbecue delights and a friendly pitmaster competition. As the festival's signature events draw to a close on Sunday, Jan. 19, ***Beachside Brunch hosted by Chef Nancy Fuller*** offers a relaxing conclusion at Las Olas Oceanside Park. Guests can indulge in delectable brunch creations amidst the tranquil backdrop of the ocean, making it a perfect finale to this culinary celebration.

Exciting cooking demonstrations by renowned chefs Alex Belew, Fabio Viviani, and social media personality, Alexa Santos, will take place on Saturday, Jan. 18. These demos, held at The Grand Tasting in Las Olas Oceanside Park, will provide attendees with an up-close look at the culinary techniques and expertise of these celebrated chefs.

Phil Marro, co-founder of the festival, emphasized the importance of these events in highlighting the diverse culinary landscape of Broward County. "The Visit Lauderdale Food & Wine Festival was created to shine a spotlight on our local restaurants, hotels, chefs, and mixologists. Each event is designed to showcase what makes Greater Fort Lauderdale special, from our beautiful beaches to our dynamic downtown and arts districts," Marro said.

VISIT LAUDERDALE FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL EVENT SCHEDULE:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15: BAR FIGHT! A SPIRITED COMPETITION

Kick off the Visit Lauderdale Food & Wine Festival signature event series with this lively competition where top mixologists battle it out in a scenic rooftop setting. Guests can enjoy an exciting evening of innovative cocktails and spirited competition, while sampling cocktails from each competitor and voting on their favorite. Don't miss this chance to help crown the cocktail champion of Greater Fort Lauderdale. Advance ticket pricing begins at \$50 and gradually increases to the event day price of \$75, pending availability. Bites can be purchased directly from Rooftop @1WLO.

- **Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- **Location:** Rooftop @1WLO at 1 W Las Olas Blvd #700, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
- **Tickets:** Purchase [HERE](#).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16: WOK 'N ROLL

Indulge in an unforgettable evening at Wok 'n Roll, where Asian-inspired cuisine takes center stage amidst vibrant live music. This event promises a fusion of flavors that will tantalize your taste buds and ignite your senses. Immerse yourself in a dynamic atmosphere perfect for culinary exploration, where each dish is crafted to perfection and paired with the rhythmic beats of live performers. Whether you're a food enthusiast or music lover, Wok 'n Roll offers an experience that blends cultural richness with culinary excellence. Advance ticket pricing begins at \$75 and gradually increases to the event day price of \$135, pending availability.

- **Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Backyard at 100 Southwest 3rd Ave Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312
- **Tickets:** Purchase [HERE](#).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17: BBQ AT THE BEACH PRESENTED BY DEMESMIN & DOVER HOSTED BY CELEBRITY CHEF JASON SMITH

Join Visit Lauderdale Food and Wine Festival for an immersive culinary experience at BBQ at the Beach, presented by Demesmin & Dover and hosted by Food Network star Chef Jason Smith. Newly located at Las Olas Intracoastal Promenade Park, this event promises a mouthwatering celebration of BBQ cuisine and competition against the backdrop of Fort Lauderdale Beach. Enjoy live entertainment, soak up the lively atmosphere, savor flavors that perfectly capture the essence of Fort Lauderdale and witness who will be taking over this year's BBQ champion. Advance ticket pricing begins at \$75 and gradually increases to the event day price of \$135, pending availability.

- **Time:** 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
- **Location:** Las Olas Intracoastal Promenade Park at 80 Las Olas Cir, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
- **Tickets:** Purchase [HERE](#).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18: THE GRAND TASTING

The Grand Tasting will be the highlight of the festival where attendees will enjoy over 100 food and beverage tastings, celebrity chef cooking demonstrations, and live music. Advance General Admission (GA) tickets are priced at \$75 and gradually increase to the event day price of \$150, offering three hours of unlimited tastings, a commemorative tasting glass, and access to cooking demos and wine/cocktail seminars. Advance VIP tickets are priced at \$150 and gradually increase to the event day price of \$300, offering all of the perks of GA Access with express entrance, an additional hour of tastings, and exclusive access to the Delta VIP Lounge, featuring special food and beverage offerings.

- **Time:** GA Access 1 p.m- 4 p.m.; VIP Access Noon - 4 p.m.
- **Location:** Las Olas Oceanside Park at 3000 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
- **Tickets:** Purchase [HERE](#)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19: PICNIC IN THE PARK PRESENTED BY JOE DIMAGGIO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Picnic in the Park presented by Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital is a family-friendly event for all ages, held at Las Olas Oceanside Park, that offers a relaxed atmosphere where attendees will enjoy a curated lineup of food trucks, hands-on culinary classes for the whole family, kid-friendly cooking demonstrations, live entertainment, the JDCH Kid's Zone, and local artisan vendors. Picnic in the Park is designed to be a day of fun and relaxation, celebrating the spirit of community and togetherness.

- **Time:** Noon- 4 p.m.

- **Location:** Las Olas Oceanside Park at 3000 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
- **Tickets:** Purchase [HERE](#).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19: BEACHSIDE BRUNCH HOSTED BY NANCY FULLER

Join us for Beachside Brunch hosted by the beloved Food Network Star Chef Nancy Fuller, known for her warm hospitality and farm-to-table expertise. This exquisite culinary experience allows attendees to indulge in delectable brunch fare expertly prepared by some of the top culinary talent in Greater Fort Lauderdale. This event promises to be a relaxed and gourmet affair where every bite is savored with views of the tranquil beach. Advance ticket pricing begins at \$65 and gradually increases to the event day price of \$95, pending availability, offering an exceptional opportunity to enjoy the best flavors of the coast in an idyllic walk-around setting.

- **Time:** 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- **Location:** Las Olas Oceanside Park at 3000 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
- **Tickets:** Purchase [HERE](#).

Visit Lauderdale Food & Wine Festival demonstrates its commitment to the community by donating a portion of all proceeds to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. This partnership highlights the festival's dedication to supporting local causes, making every ticket purchase a contribution to a worthy cause.

For more information, visit www.vlfoodwine.com. Details on culinary classes and the exclusive dining series will be revealed at a later date. Follow Visit Lauderdale on XXX for the latest updates.

MEDIA CONTACT

RockawayMore

Marel Holler Hinnens | Kathleen Lam

Email: VLFWF@rockawaymore.com

Phone: 305-751-9641, ext 114

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ABOUT VISIT LAUDERDALE FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

The Visit Lauderdale Food & Wine Festival, founded by Kate Reed and Phillip Marro, is an annual celebration of Greater Fort Lauderdale's rich culinary scene. Set against the backdrop of 24 miles of stunning beaches and vibrant downtown communities, the festival spans seven days in January. This immersive event features an array of experiences, including wine tastings, gourmet dinners, craft beer samplings, and spirits showcases, all designed to highlight the diverse flavors and innovative culinary talents in the region. In addition to the main festival week, various sanctioned events will be held throughout the year, each offering a unique setting that underscores the area's emerging art districts and cultural vibrancy. The festival not only provides a platform for food and drink enthusiasts to indulge in exceptional cuisine but also supports local charities, reinforcing its commitment to the community. Whether you're exploring new culinary trends, enjoying a beachfront wine tasting, or attending a dinner in one of the city's cultural hotspots, the Visit Lauderdale Food & Wine Festival promises unforgettable experiences that celebrate the essence of Greater Fort Lauderdale.

For the latest updates and event details, visit www.VLFoodWine.com and follow @VLFoodWine on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, and YouTube (#VLFWF).

ABOUT**VISIT****LAUDERDALE**

Visit Lauderdale is the official destination marketing organization for Greater Fort Lauderdale and serves as the tourism department for Broward County, Florida. Visit Lauderdale promotes the area's 31 municipalities to a global audience of leisure and business travelers as the ideal place for Everyone Under the Sun in recognition of the area's diverse and welcoming vibe, and books conventions into the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center and area hotels and resorts. Find more information at visitlauderdale.com and follow @VisitLauderdale on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [YouTube](#).