

Fall Winter 2026 - 2027

Florida's #1 Award-Winning Visitors Guide

DESTINATIONTM FLORIDA

WHAT'S UP?

*Theater, Concerts,
Festivals, + 137
Fun Holiday Haps*

SEASONS GREETINGS

Here Comes The Nutcracker!

LET'S EAT!

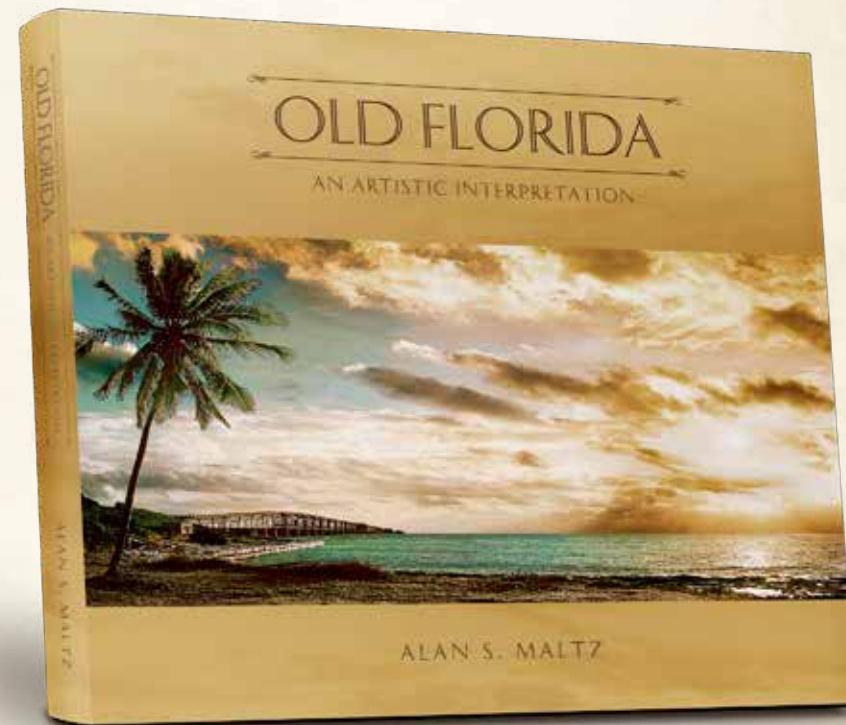
*Top Pick Restaurants,
Reviews, Recipes,
Sample Menus + More!*

GREATER TAMPA | GULF COAST

An Inspiring New Coffee Table Book by Alan S. Maltz

OLD FLORIDA

AN ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION



Available this fall, just in time for the 2026-2027 holiday season. Scan the QR code to learn more about the book, pricing, quantity discounts, and ordering information.



Travel from present to past and experience a simpler, freer, less complicated time. Explore the beauty, history and mystique of a Florida few have witnessed. This premium 12 x 11-inch large-format fine art book features 132 pages, masterfully designed for those who appreciate the highest quality in photography, printing & book production. This is the sixth in a series of Florida-based books by renowned artist & author Alan S. Maltz.



The Alan S. Maltz Gallery, located on historic Duval Street in Key West, has been an integral part of the Island's cultural landscape for almost three decades. This is a space where inspiration and creativity unite in perfect harmony.

ALAN S. MALTZ GALLERY | 1210 DUVAL STREET | (305) 294-0005 | ALANMALTZ.COM

Concierge TOP PICKS



BEST RESORT FOR AGES 2 -12 Legoland

If there's anything that makes you long to be a kid again, it's this totally awesome 150-acre interactive theme park specifically designed for kids 2 -12 years old. With more than 50 unique rides, 10 theme zones and all kinds of really cool attractions, it is the absolute bomb! Lots of special events here, too. FYI: The water ride, "Quest For Chi" is an absolute blast! Find it at 1 Legoland Way in Winter Haven. 877-350-5346; legoland.com/Florida. Legoland Properties - Legoland Hotel, Legoland Beach Retreat and Pirate Island Hotel.

BEST SOUTHERN COOKING Ivy On The Square

Southern food is synonymous with comfort food so it's not surprising that great Southern recipes, passed down from one generation to the next, are cherished and protected. And that brings us to Marjorie "Mimi" Hale - the matriarch of the award-winning "Ivy House Restaurant & Catering" in Williston as well as the new, hip "Ivy On The Square" in downtown Ocala. Two restaurants, two different vibes but both share the same authentic

Southern specialties created from Mimi's cherished family recipes. You'll find perennial favorites like homemade Pimento Cheese, Fried Green Tomatoes, Shrimp & Grits and Mimi's signature Baked Krispy Chicken. Everything here is outrageously good! In Ocala at 53 S Magnolia (352-622-5550); and in Williston at 106 NW Mail St (352-528-5410). ivyhousefl.com.

BEST PUPPY HUGS

Southeastern Guide Dogs
Need a good hug? Then head on down to Southeastern Guide Dogs, an outstanding organization that trains puppies on a 33 acre campus to prepare them for their future lives as trained guide dogs. To help socialize these precious puppies, you are invited to come visit for lots of free puppy hugs. FYI: Reservations a must! Find it at 4210 77th St, East in Palmetto - just over St Pete's Skyway Bridge. Info: 941-729-5665; guidedogs.org.

BEST MEXICAN FOOD

Lona

If you appreciate great Mexican food, listen up: Internationally acclaimed Chefs, Richard Sandoval and Pablo Salas hit the ball out of the park. Their collaborative and contemporary approach to traditional dishes showcases a fusion of regional Mexican cuisines with an inventive array of bold and authentic flavors. From delectable street food favorites, to refined dishes inspired by ancient recipes, Sandoval's and Salas' masterful creations celebrate the diversity and complexity of Mexican gastronomy. Not to be missed! Find their cool digs at the Tampa Marriott Water Street, 505 Water St. Info: 813-221-4900 lonatampa.com

BEST WILD HANG

ZooTampa at Lowry Park

With more than 1300 resident animals, ZooTampa is famous for having one of the most beautiful, tropical zoological settings in the world. You'll experience unforgettable, natural connections and get closer to wildlife than ever before. Touch a giant tortoise, feed a giraffe, go nose-to-horn with an Indian rhino, hand-to-fin with slippery stingrays and a whole lot more! You and your family can also splash in the fun water play areas, climb aboard thrilling rides and take in fascinating educational shows. Love manatees? At the David A. Straz Jr. Manatee Hospital, the Zoo's veterinary and animal-care staff treat sick, injured and orphaned manatees before returning them to the wild after rehabilitation. Don't miss this one! ZooTampa is open daily from 9:30am - 5pm. Find it at Lowry Park, 1101 W Sligh Ave, Tampa, FL 33604. Info: 813-935-8552; zootampa.org.



BEST CONCERTS

Benchmark International Arena

Often cited as "The Live Music Capital of the World," Tampa is also home to one of the most amazing concert venues in the country. From Rock and Pop, to Country and EDM, this high-energy music venue makes every concert a totally immersive experience. The top-tier productions are insanely good with mind-shattering acoustics and electric vibes. The Arena, which also underwent a massive makeover and name change, also boasts a "Concert Club" where a VIP ticket nets you access to an exclusive lounge with premium cocktails and indulgent gourmet food. A great way to kick things up a notch! Located at 401 Channelside Dr, Tampa. Info: 813-301-6500; benchmarktlarena.com.



BEST CIGAR EMPORIUM

Corona Cigar Tampa

With 5,000 square feet of humidified space, this smoking-hot cigar emporium showcases a unique collection of premium cigars, must-have accessories and curated pieces. But what really puts it over the top are the added amenities which include multiple indoor-and-out smoking lounges, private lockers and an elegant full service bar with top shelf libations. Yowza! Find it at the Metwest International Shopping Center, 4142 Boy Scout Blvd. near Tampa's International Mall and Airport. Info: 813-513-7560; coronacigar.com.



BEST VIEW OF TAMPA

Ballast Point Park & Fishing Pier

Located a little more than 4 miles from downtown Tampa along Bayshore Blvd, this wonderful park with its historic wooden fishing pier jutting out of Tampa Bay, offers unparalleled views of the downtown skyline. It's also known for the Taste Of Boston restaurant which is one of the few places in the Bay area that serves up classic New England fare including fried Ipswich clams and steamers.

BEST RIB EYE

Bascom's Chop House

It's impossible not to fall in love with everything on Bascom's menu. The seafood, delivered daily and expertly prepared, is always top-notch. The center-cut prime chops? Simply the best. But let's talk about the showstopper: the glorious 16 oz bone-in Ribeye. Hand-cut from Certified Angus Midwestern grain-fed steer, this steak is a masterpiece. It's rich, well-marbled, and served perfectly charred on the outside with an intense, unforgettable flavor. If you're a steak lover, this Ribeye needs to be on your bucket list! Find it at 3665 Ulmerton Rd., Clearwater. 727-573-3363; bascoms.com.

BEST ART HOUSE CINEMA

Hippodrome Theater

Regaled as Gainesville's "Cultural Centerpiece," this beautifully restored historic landmark once served as a US Post Office. Today, it's a fun hub for an eclectic lineup of live theater; independent, foreign and classic films; cutting edge art exhibits by local and regional artists; classes and special events.

The spacious multi-purpose, state-of-the-art performance hall is a hip hang year-round and is always a fun jam. Find it at 25 SW 2nd Pl in Gainesville. Info: 352-375-4477; thehipp.orgresistance! Find it at 48 SW 1st Ave in Ocala. 352-433-2570; lacuisineocala.com.





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DESTINATION
FLORIDA

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ART CREATED BY HUMBERTO CASTRO

“OCEAN EYES”

STUDIO FINE CUBAN ART TO COLLECT



Art + Cultural Happenings



Please confirm details with event organizers or venues in case of changes or cancellations.

WEEKLY

Every Thursday

Downtown St Pete Food & Wine Tour

St Pete: Bring your appetite and camera for an intimate, informative walking tour of Beach Drive. You'll visit several top art galleries, as well as up to five exciting waterfront restaurants where you can enjoy fabulous dinner pairings and luscious desserts. Must be 21+. Takes place from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at various locations. Info: tampabayfoodtours.com.

Every Thursday (Now – December 31)

Cigar City: Bringing Industry to Tampa

Tampa: This short, 20-minute tour explores Tampa's historic cigar industry, where skilled artisans crafted hand-rolled cigars in bustling factories, shaping the city's cultural identity and earning it the nickname "Cigar City." Takes place at 2 pm at the Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Water St. Info: 813-228-0097; tampabayhistorycenter.org.

Every Sunday

Corey Avenue Sunday Market

St Pete Beach: Over 80 vendors showcase local and homemade produce, plants, food,

unique artisan gifts, eco-friendly and fair-trade products and more. Live music and dog friendly, too! Takes place from 10 am – 2 pm at Corey Ave and Blind Pass Rd. Info: coreyave.com.

MONTHLY

Second Wednesday Heights Night Market

Tampa: A rotating cast of artisans offer handmade goods, jewelry, art, woodwork, unique gifts, and more. Takes place from 5:30 – 9:30 pm in front of Armature Works on 7th Ave. Info: armatureworks.com.

Select Thursdays Art After Dark

St Pete: Enjoy special after-hours admission to unique exhibitions, thought-provoking lectures, film screenings, and engaging docent tours. FYI: Be sure to stop by the gift shop for a memento or a enjoy bite at Café Clementine. Takes place from 5 – 8 pm at the



Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Dr NE. Info & tickets: 727-896-2667; mfastpete.org.

Second Thursday

Happy Hour with the Historian

Tampa: Enjoy a fun evening of wine, words and wisdom as local experts cover topics ranging from trailblazing female pilots and St Pete's haunted past, to artistic astronauts and bridge disasters. Kicks off at 6:30 pm at the St Petersburg Museum of History, 335 2nd Ave NE. Info: 727-894-1052; historystpete.org.

First Friday (October – May)

Art Walk

Ocala: Browse over 30 artist displays, enjoy live music, street performers and family arts activities in the historic downtown district, as well as extended shopping hours by local merchants. Takes place from 6 – 9 pm at 50 S Magnolia Ave. Info: 352-629-2489; ocalafl.gov.

First Saturday

Free Museum Day

Ocala: Browse museum masterpieces, enjoy special exhibitions, visiting artists and performers, get creative in the Artspace and enjoy a selfie or two in the sculpture garden. Takes place from 10am – 5 pm at the Appleton Museum, 4333 E Silver Springs Blvd. Info: appletonmuseum.com.

First Saturday & Sunday Vintage Marche

St Pete: Explore more than 15,000' of hand-picked vintage, repurposed, antique and mid-century modern furnishings, home décor, art, jewelry and more at this unique vendor-run market. Takes place on Sa from 9 am – 6 pm and on Su from 9 am – 5 pm at 2906 34th St S. Info: vintagemarsche727.com.

Second Saturday

Second Saturday Art Walk

St Pete: Explore the Sunshine City's vibrant arts scene as galleries and studios in over seven arts districts stay open late to introduce featured artists and new exhibits. Takes place from 9 am – 9 pm. Info: stpeteartalliance.org.



Second Sunday

Second Sunday Market & Art Walk

Tampa: Beat the heat at this air-conditioned marketplace where you can shop a wide variety of unique gifts, clothes, healthy living products and more. Takes place from 11 am – 3 pm at Armature Works, 1910 Ola Ave. Info: armatureworks.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

September 19– 20

St Armands Craft Festival

Sarasota: Creativity blooms as top Florida artisans display paintings, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, planters and more. FYI: Be sure to check out the adjacent Green Market for unique orchids, dips, sauces and soaps! Takes place from 10 am – 4 pm at 1 St Armands Circle. Info: artfestival.com.

October 3 – 4

Corey Avenue Fall Art & Craft Festival

St Pete Beach: This lively, open-air marketplace features a curated collection of contemporary crafts and fine art from skilled artisans across the country. Come Sunday, an expansive Green Market takes center stage with a huge selection of exotic plants, handmade soaps, gourmet spices, and other specialty food items. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm in the historic Corey Ave District, 300 Corey Ave. Info: sikpromotions.com.

October 10 – 11

Downtown Dunedin Craft Festival

Dunedin: Some of the country's finest artists and crafters showcase ceramic planters, functional pottery, one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces and more. An expansive Green

Market also offers a variety of sauces, spices, luxury bath items and gourmet goodies! Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at 271 Main St. Info: artfestival.com.

October 10 – 11

Sponge Docks Fall Craft Festival

Tarpon Springs: More than 90 of the nation's top artists and crafters flock to the docks for a weekend of art, culture and coastal charm. Explore an array of unique creations including everything from original art, contemporary crafts and jewelry to plants, homemade soap, and local eats. Takes place on Sa from 10 am – 7 pm and on Su from 10 am – 5 pm at the Sponge Docks, 735 Dodecanese Blvd. Info: sikpromotions.com.



October 17

Water Lantern Festival

Sarasota: USA Today's #1 festival showcases the launch of thousands of illuminated rice paper lanterns carrying messages of hope, peace, happiness and goodwill. Takes place from 4:30 – 8:30 pm at 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle. Tickets & info: waterlanternfestival.com.

October 17 – 18

30th Anniversary Downtown Sarasota Craft Festival

Sarasota: Creativity abounds at this stunning showcase of sculptures, paintings, jewelry, photography, and ceramics by US artists and fine crafters. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm in the heart of downtown at Five Points Park, 1 Central Ave. Info: artfestival.com.

October 17– 18

St Armands Fall Festival of the Arts

Sarasota: Local and national artists shine at this outdoor gallery of unique and original works. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at 434 St Armands Circle. Info: paragonfestivals.com.

October 24 – 25

Hyde Park Village Art Fair

Tampa: This acclaimed open-air arts market showcases the works of more than 100+ juried artisans. You'll find everything from life-size sculptures, spectacular paintings, unique jewelry, photography, ceramics and more. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm in historic Hyde Park Village, 1622 Snow Ave. Info: artfestival.net.

Art & Cultural Happenings

October 24 – 25

Ocala Arts Festival

Ocala: Enjoy the artwork of over 150 top artists from around the country, backdropped by terrific local performers, and tons of delicious food trucks. Takes place in historic downtown from 10 am – 5 pm at 110 SE Wattle Ave. Info: fafo.org.

October 24 – 25

Craft Festival at the Shops at Wiregrass Wesley Chapel

This outdoor artisan market offers handcrafted fine art, including painting, sculpture, photography, jewelry, and mixed media, plus unique lifestyle gifts, soaps, lotions, plants, handbags, pet accessories and more. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at 28211 Paseo Dr. Info: artfestival.com.

October 31 – November 1

The Tampa Craft Festival

Tampa: This exciting new outdoor festival showcases original work from juried artists and crafters — paintings, photography, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture and more. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm downtown at Contanchobee Fort Brooke Park, 601 Water St. Info: artfestival.com.

November 7 – December 6

22nd Annual Sarasota Medieval Fair

Sarasota: Staged on over 47-acres of majestic oak trees, lush grass meadows, and winding creeks, this exciting Medieval experience takes you back to the year 1415 AD. Experience full contact jousting matches, a “Wheel of Death,” action packed performances, live musical productions and other activities that all transport you to another time and place. Takes place every Sa



and Su from 10 am – 5:30 pm at the Woods of Mallaranny, 29847 FL-70 E, Myakka City. Info: 888-303-3247; sarasotamedievalfair.com.

November 8

50th Annual Christmas Under the Oaks

Clearwater: This popular local event features a big selection of handmade arts & crafts, unique gifts, and creative holiday themed products. The Food Court includes a great mix of local food vendors offering all kinds of interesting bites. Takes place from 9 am – 4 pm at St Petersburg College, Clearwater Campus, 2465 Drews St. Info: fairsandfestivals.net.

November 8 – 15

Living Arts Festival

Sarasota: This annual week-long celebration of the arts features terrific live music, visual art exhibitions, interactive kids’ activities, buskers, cultural pop-ups, walking tours, a traveling arts roulette wheel, and lots more! Takes place at various times/locations. Info: sarasotarising.com.

November 8 – 17

SHINE Mural Festival

St Pete: Discover the vibrant citywide landscape of stunning larger-than-life murals from local, regional, and national artists during this special community art event that recognizes the transformative power of public

art. Takes place from 8 am – 5 pm in the St Petersburg Arts District, 719 Central Ave. Info: stpeteartsalliance.org.

November 13 – 16

Crystal Classic Int’l Sand Sculpting Festival

Siesta Key: Magnificent sand masterpieces, hand-sculpted by 24 internationally renowned artists magically transform white sand beaches into a larger-than-life art gallery. Takes place from 10 am – 5pm on the beach at 948 Beach Rd. Info: siestakeycrystalclassic.com



November 15

Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair

Bonita Springs: This outdoor showcase of original art by acclaimed artists from throughout Florida and across America includes original paintings, photography, sculptures, metalwork, jewelry and much more. Takes place from Noon – 4 pm at the Promenade at Bonita Bay, 26811 S Bay Dr. Info: fairsandfestivals.net.

November 17 – 18

Sarasota Fall Fine Art Festival

Sarasota: Shop original art all created by talented local, regional and national artists in this unique outdoor gallery. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at JD Hamel Park, 199 Bayfront Dr. Info: paragonfestivals.com.



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305.294.2633



People are talking ...

"Spectacular museum"

...

"So interesting"

...

"Huge fan of this place"

...

"So many artifacts to view"

...

"Well done and great story"

...

"One of our Top Three in Key West"

...

"A must see"

New Exhibitions

"A Wealthy World"

"Spirits of the Passage"



The Florida Keys & Key West
... come as you are

Art & Cultural Happenings

November 17 – 18

Thanksgiving Arts & Crafts Festival

Tarpon Springs: Kick-start your Christmas shopping with original works from new and established artists and crafters. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm in historic downtown. Info: 323-344-0657; spongedocks.net

November 21 – 22

The Early Elf Market

Tarpon Springs: Here's your opportunity to escape the holiday chaos of the malls and avoid the risk of ordering online. This cherished holiday tradition is where you can leisurely browse a treasure trove of unique, crafted gifts. Browse everything from intricate folk art, stunning earthenware, and captivating paintings, to wearable art, luxurious body products, delightful pet accessories, and personalized gifts. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm downtown, along E Court St. Info: exploretarponsprings.com.

November 22 – 23

Thanksgiving Arts & Crafts Festival

Tarpon Springs: More than 90 of the nation's top artists and crafters showcase their "Made in the USA" original creations. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm in historic downtown. at 100 E Tarpon Ave. Info: 352-344-0657; spongedocks.net.

November 25 – 26

Shopapalooza Festival

St Pete: This free, family-friendly festival features hundreds of local vendors, live entertainment, food and drinks, kids activities, and plenty of holiday shopping from local businesses. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Dr. Info: shopapalooza.com.

November 25 – 26

Buckler's 24th Annual Holiday Craft Fair

Tampa: Shop a huge array of handmade creations by local and national artists and crafters. You'll find everything from custom home & holiday decor, unique gifts, original artwork, dazzling jewelry, gourmet delights, and lots more. Takes place on Sa from 10 am – 5 pm and on Su from 10 am – 4 pm at the State Fairgrounds Entertainment Hall, 4800 Hwy 301 North. Info: BucklerCraftFair.com.

December 5 – 6

Corey Arts & Crafts Show

St Pete Beach: More than 200 talented artists

and crafters showcase a variety of handmade wares at this juried, open-air festival marketplace. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at 415 Corey Ave. Info: artfestival.com.

December 12 – 13

Atomic Holiday Bazaar

Sarasota: This festive holiday art and crafts show features affordable and unusual one-of-a-kind items that you won't find at big box stores. Come hungry: two food trucks along with the Robarts Concession will be slinging yummy eats. Takes place from Noon – 5 pm at Robarts Area at the Sarasota Fair, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info: 941365-0818; sarasotafair.com.

January 2 – 3

Corey Area Winter Art & Craft Festival

St Pete Beach: Now in its 33rd year, this lively, open-air marketplace features a curated collection of contemporary crafts and fine art by skilled artisans from across the country. Come Sunday, an expansive Green Market takes center stage with a huge selection of exotic plants, handmade soaps, gourmet spices, and other specialty food items. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm in the historic Corey Ave District, 300 Corey Ave. Info: sikpromotions.com.

January 2 – 3

Sarasota Fine Art Festival

Sarasota: This expansive outdoor gallery showcases spectacular original art, handcrafted jewelry, wearable art, and more. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at JD Hamel Park, 199 Bayfront Dr. Info: paragonfestivals.com.



FOOTLIGHTS



Please confirm details with event organizers or venues in case of changes or cancellations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

August 15

Mötley Crüe Return of the Carnival of Sins Tour

Tampa: Rock out with a night full of heavy-hit 1980s and 90s rock energy. Special guests: Tesla and Extreme. Showtime: 6:30 pm at the Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 US Hwy 301 N. Info & tickets: 813-621-7821; fairgroundsamphitheatre.com

August 18 – 28

Penelope

Tampa: More than just a stage production, this creatively crafted experience is a celebration of imagination and innovation. The interactive production goes way beyond the ordinary, combining elements of surprise, delight, and pure entertainment. Showtime: 7 pm in the Shimberg Playhouse at The Straz Center, 201 W Tyler St. Info & tickets: 813-229-7827; strazcenter.org.

August 28 – 29

Rock the Country

Ocala: Two days of non-stop live music from some of the biggest names in the industry honor the spirit of America. Headliners include Brooks & Dunn, Blake Shelton, Lauren Alaina, Shenandoah, McCoy Moore, Ludacris, Mark Chesnutt, Fox N' Dead and other greats. In between sets, you can kick back with some hot DJs. Great food, beer, fan swag and more. Various times. Takes place at Florida Horse Park, 11008 S Hwy 475. Info & tickets:

September 12 – 13

Bruno Mars:

The Romantic Tour

Tampa: Global superstar, and Grammy-award winner, Bruno Mars, continues celebrating his fourth solo album with one of the biggest global outings of the year. Showtime: 7 pm at the Raymond James Stadium, 4201 N Dale Mabry Hwy. Info & tickets: raymondjamesstadium.com.

September 18

Zac Brown Band: Love & Fear Tour

Tampa: Country music's most prolific touring band consistently defies genre expectations and is considered to be of the most dynamic, musician-driven acts on the planet. Renowned for blending chart-topping success with fearless innovation, the band is what modern country music is all about. Showtime: 7 pm at the Benchmark International Arena, 401 Channelside Dr. Info & tickets: benchmarkintarena.com.

October 6 – 11

Buena Vista Social Club

Tampa: Hailed as a "jaw-dropping, soul-stirring must see" (The Washington Post), this Tony® and GRAMMY® Award-winning show is a journey through music and memory into the beating heart of Havana. A world-class company brings the story of the iconic album to thrilling life in this tale of big dreams, second chances and music that needs no translation. Showtime: 7:30 pm with a 2:30 pm matinee on Sa. On stage at the Straz Center, 1010 Macinnes Pl. Info & tickets: strazcenter.org.

October 15 – 18

Clearwater Jazz Holiday

Clearwater: Tampa Bay's largest outdoor jazz festival includes live performances by exceptional local and national jazz musicians, as well as great merchandise, food and more! Various show times. Take place at Coachman Park, 300 Cleveland St. Info and tickets: 727-461-5200; clearwaterjazz.com.

October 18

THE SMASHING PUMPKINS: THE RATS IN A CAGE TOUR

Tampa: One of the most ambitious live shows by the iconic, GRAMMY® Award-winning rock band celebrates the 30th anniversary of Smashing Pumpkins multi-platinum album, Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness. Showtime: 8 pm at the Benchmark International Arena, 401 Channelside Dr. Info & tickets: benchmarkintarena.com.





October 30 Sonic Live Concert

St Pete: This live in-concert experience brings together, the most iconic music and incredible moments of the beloved Sonic video games. A live ensemble, rock musicians, electronics, and vocalists perform an array of the incredible and defining songs from throughout the games, as well as instrumental renditions of fan favorites from the Genesis era to now. Showtime: 8 pm at the Mahaffey Theater at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts, 400 First St South. Info & tickets: themahaffey.com.

November 1 – 8 Hamilton

Tampa: This award-winning epic saga follows the rise of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton as he fights for honor, love and a legacy that would shape the course of a nation. Based on Ron Chernow's acclaimed biography and set to a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R&B and Broadway.



Various dates and times. On stage at the Straz Center, 1010 Macinnes Pl. Info & tickets: strazcenter.org.

November 11 Mannheim Steamroller Christmas By Chip Davis

St Pete: Grammy Award Winner, Chip Davis is back to kick off the holidays with a night of Mannheim Steamroller Christmas classics in the distinctive Mannheim sound. This year's show will feature classic Christmas hits from the Mannheim Steamroller holiday albums along with multimedia effects in an intimate setting including 15 musicians playing more than 20 instruments against a backdrop of dazzling multimedia effects – capturing the spirit of the season in an immersive, yet intimate setting. FYI: Always a sell-out so get your tickets early! Showtime: 7:30 pm at the Mahaffey Theater at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts, 400 First St South. Info & tickets: themahaffey.com.



November 18 – 29 'Twas the Night Before... by Cirque du Soleil

Tampa: Created especially for families, this festive flurry of love and cheer showcases the incredible acrobatics that Cirque du Soleil is known for: from a mesmerizing aerial straps duo and daring hoop diving, to gravity-defying hair suspension and high-energy

dancing – performed by a cast of 26 artists from all over the world. The show also features lovable characters and a soundtrack including Christmas favorites reinvented by Cirque du Soleil. On stage at the Straz Center, 1010 Macinnes Pl. Info & tickets: strazcenter.org.

November 20 A Magical Cirque Christmas: A Holiday Variety Show

St Pete: This dazzling holiday spectacular is loaded with nostalgia, comedy, music, and breathtaking cirque artistry. The production showcases world-class acrobats, aerialists, contortionists, jugglers, and specialty performers backdropped by a feel-good holiday soundtrack featuring modern takes on beloved Christmas classics. Showtime: 8 pm at the Mahaffey Theater at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts, 400 First St South. Info & tickets: themahaffey.com.

November 20 – 22 St Pete Country Fest

St Pete: This 3-day, 3-stage festival showcases some of country music's top-tier talent, as well as well as emerging artists and a regional showcase of up-and-coming acts. Takes place at various times at Vinoy Waterfront Park, 701 Bayshore Dr. Info: stpetecountrystage.com.

November 20 – 22 36th Annual Suncoast Jazz Festival

Clearwater Beach: This sun-soaked weekend of sound includes a Swing Dance Party, a Big Easy Parasol Parade, Sunday Morning Serenade, and Live Jazz from Wycliffe Gordon, Jason Marsalis, Nate Najar, La Lucha, Paul Willborn, Eugene Bondurant, and more! Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm on the beach at 1160 Gulf Blvd. Info: 727-248-9441; suncostjazzfestival.com.

November 29 – 30 The Rock Orchestra by Candlelight

Tampa: Prepare for a spellbinding 90-minute spectacle that infuses iconic rock and metal anthems with a hauntingly beautiful energy. In ethereal candlelit settings, this electrifying band of 14 classical musicians unleash effortlessly enchanting melodies alongside powerful walls of distortion. Various times. On stage at Morsani Hall, 1010 Macinnes Pl. Info & tickets: strazcenter.org.

Grab Your Nutcracker!

This Magical Show Is A "Holiday Must Do"



If you've never experienced the beloved Christmas classic, *Nutcracker*, you're missing out on one of America's most magical holiday traditions.

Set to Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's iconic score, this beloved two-act classical ballet is a fantastical holiday tale about a young girl's Christmas Eve adventure into the Land of Sweets and of her friendship with a nutcracker that comes to life.

The ballet is adapted from Alexandre Dumas's 1844 short story *The Nutcracker*, which was originally based on E. T. A. Hoffmann's 1816 short story, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*. Completed in 1892, Tchaikovsky's glorious score is one of his most famous compositions and has been used in several film adaptations of Hoffmann's story.

Since the late 1960s, *The Nutcracker* has been performed by a plethora of ballet companies, especially in North America where it has morphed into a

holiday "Must-Do."

Now a Southwest Florida holiday tradition, *Nutcracker* is, once again, coming here for the holidays with several December performances scheduled at some of the Sunshine State's top venues. Each production is uniquely its own but all are fabulous interpretations of one of the most treasured works in classical ballet.

On Friday, December 18 through Tuesday, December 22, the Holiday Pops Next Generation Ballet's *Nutcracker* takes to the stage in Tampa. This dazzling production showcases the remarkable talent of award-winning young dancers performing alongside internationally acclaimed professional guest artists.

Every moment is brought to life through breathtaking choreography, stunning costumes and of course, Tchaikovsky's beloved score. You can see it at various times at Morsani Hall, 1010 Macinnes Pl. Info and tickets: strazcenter.org.

St Pete celebrates this beloved holiday tradition with three performances of *Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet* on Sunday, December 27. The international all-star cast blends world-class ballet with enchanting puppetry, extravagant costumes, and breathtaking acrobatics. Showtimes: Noon, 4 pm, and 8 pm at the Mahaffey Theater at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts, 400 First St South. Info and tickets: themahaffey.com.

Sarasota's *Nutcracker Magical Christmas Ballet* wraps up the 2026 holiday season on Tuesday, December 29 with two shows at 3 pm and 7 pm. Regaled as the largest *Nutcracker* production in North America, this breathtaking holiday spectacle boasts world-class international dancers,

gravity-defying acrobatics, magnificent costumes, and towering puppets.

The over-the-top, grand production transforms the stage into an unforgettable celebration of the season. Takes place at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N Tamiami Trail. Info and tickets: 941-263-6799; vanwezel.org.

For more Nutcracker performances in your neck of the woods, hit up nutcrackertickets.org.

Happy Holidays!





December 10
Vienna Light Orchestra
Christmas Tour 2026

St Pete: This unforgettable holiday concert experience blends soaring soprano voices and lush symphonic arrangements, with theatrical Christmas magic. Over 2,000 flickering candlelights illuminate a breathtaking Christmas tree forest as world-class musicians and vocalists bring beloved holiday classics to life, along with a few Christmas surprises along the way. Showtimes: 3 pm and 7:30 pm at the Mahaffey Theater at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts, 400 First St South. Info & tickets: themahaffey.com.

December 10 – 13
Holiday Pops
Tampa/St Pete: The world-class musicians of The Florida Orchestra perform all of your classic favorites in this great holiday tradition. A jolly good time for the whole family! Various times and locations. Info & tickets: 727-892-3331; floridaorchestra.org.



December 11 – 12
Chris Brown & Usher:
The R & B Tour

Tampa: GRAMMY® Award-winning icons, Chris Brown and USHER are two of the biggest names in 21st century music. As R & B's top genre-defining hitmakers, the co-headlining duo deliver a three hour spectacle that is a dream come true for R & B enthusiasts. Showtime: 7 pm at the Raymond James Stadium, 4201 N Dale Mabry Hwy. Info & tickets: raymondjamesstadium.com.

December 18 – 22
Holiday Pops Next Generation
Ballet's®
Nutcracker

Tampa: This cherished Tampa holiday tradition showcases the remarkable talent of the award-winning young dancers, performing alongside internationally acclaimed professional guest artists. Every moment is brought to life through breathtaking choreography, stunning costumes and Tchaikovsky's beloved score. One of the most treasured works in classical ballet! Various times. On stage at Morsani Hall, 1010 Macinnes Pl. Info & tickets: strazcenter.org.

December 20
A Very Broadway Christmas
St Pete: Step into the holiday season with a dazzling musical spectacular that will transport you to the Big Apple for one unforgettable evening! This high-energy production features favorite Christmas songs from Broadway and beyond, performed with a live band, ensemble of dancers, and Broadway vocalists. Even Santa makes a magical appearance — complete with a family photo-op. Showtime: 1 pm and 5 pm at the Mahaffey Theater at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts, 400 First St South. Info & tickets: themahaffey.com.

December 26
A Drag Queen Christmas
Tampa: Get ready for some of America's favorite queens performing live on stage during the country's longest running drag tour. VIP Meet & Greet add-on tickets sold separately. Showtime: 8 pm at Morsani Hall, 1010 Macinnes Pl. Info & tickets: strazcenter.org.

December 27
Nutcracker!
St Pete: Celebrate a beloved holiday tradition with an international all-star cast that blends world-class ballet with enchanting puppetry, extravagant costumes, and breathtaking acrobatics. Showtimes: Noon, 4 pm, and 8 pm at the Mahaffey Theater at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts, 400 First St South. Info & tickets: themahaffey.com.

January 3
Cinderella
St Pete: Step into one of the most beloved fairytales of all time brought to life in a dazzling Broadway-style ballet production filled with beauty, humor, romance, and unforgettable theatrical magic. Showtime: 4 pm at the Mahaffey Theater at the Duke Energy Center for the Arts, 400 First St South. Info & tickets: themahaffey.com.



What's Up



Please confirm details with event organizers or venues in case of changes or cancellations.

DAILY

Sunsets at Pier 60 Festival
Clearwater: This fun, nightly sunset celebration features artisans, crafters, street performers, live music and more. Starts 2 hours before sunset (approximately 5 – 9:30 pm) at Pier 60, 1 Causeway Blvd. Info: 727-449-1036; sunsetpier60.com.

MONTHLY

Third Thursday
Third Thursday Market
Tampa: Enjoy a hip, fun nighttime gourmet food event featuring food trucks, cocktails, live music and more! Takes place from 6 – 10 pm at 1208 E Kennedy Blvd. Info: tampabaymarkets.com.

Third Thursday
Sip and Shop
Ocala: Merchants and restaurants stay open until 8 pm for shopping with complimentary cocktails. Show your receipt from participating retailers and get 15% off at select downtown eateries and bars. Takes place from 5 – 8 pm in Downtown Ocala. Info: ocalamainstreet.org.

First Friday
The Market Elaine
Wesley Chapel: This nighttime version of the Market Marie includes 150+ vendors offering food, art, plants, clothing and jewelry,

candles, soaps, home décor, pet adoptions and more. Takes place from 5:30 – 9:30 pm at 6103 Wesley Grove Blvd. Info: Facebook.com/TheMarketElaine.

First Friday & 3rd Saturday
Gulfport Night Market
Gulfport: This new monthly hybrid blend of the Gulfport Art Walk and IndieFaire Markets showcases vibrant handcrafted goods from local crafters and artisans. You can also enjoy live music, street performers, and more. Takes place from 5 – 9 pm on Beach Blvd S between 28th Ave S & Shore Blvd. Info: visitgulfportflorida.com.

Second Saturday
The Market Marie
Clearwater: More than 65 small, local vendors offer up delicious food, art, clothing, jewelry, candles and soaps, pet treats, home goods and more. Takes place from 10 am – 2 pm at the Market Marie, 710 Court St. Info: themarketmarie.com.

Third Saturday
Indie Faire Maker's Market
Gulfport: Discover local, handmade arts and crafts, jewelry, pottery, locally sourced botanicals and mores at this expansive downtown arts market. Takes place from 5 – 9



pm on Beach Blvd S between 28th Ave S and Shore Blvd. Info: visitgulfportflorida.com.

Second Sunday
Seminole Heights Sunday Morning Market
Tampa: Discover an array of unusual gifts, clothes, healthy living products and more from popular market vendors. Takes place from 11 am – 3 pm at 4500 N Nebraska Ave. Info: tampabaymarkets.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

August 15
Hippie Fest
Tarpon Springs: Break out the bell bottoms, get your tie dye on, and trip back in time for a nostalgic day of live music, craft beer, and fun food. The retro rewind also includes a hippie costume contest, hysterical hula competition and a cool VW Bug & Van show. Takes place from 2 – 9 pm at the Sponge Docks, 735 Dodecanese Blvd. Info: spongedocks.net.

August 15 – 16
Sunshine City Scare
St Pete: Get ready for non-stop entertainment from morning to late-nite at this immersive horror convention. The Halloween-Prequel features massive headliners and an absolutely jam-packed schedule of events. Takes place on Sa from 10 am – 11 pm and on Su from 11 am – 5 pm at the Hilton St Petersburg Bayfront, 333 1st St SE. Info & tickets: sunshinecityscare.floridacomicon.com.

August 21
VooDoo Chef's Tasting Event: A Taste to Remember
Tampa: Culinary artistry collides with rock and roll flair during VooDoo Chef's newest culinary charity event. The one night only celebration fuses the sophistication of a cocktail soirée, with the electrifying energy of rock and roll party. Takes place from 6 – 10 pm at TampaBob Buckhorn River Center, 402 W Laurel St. Info & tickets: 813-998-4852; voodoochef.foundation.com.

September 4 – 6
Tampa Bay Comic Con
Tampa: Vintage and new comics, toys, cosplay, anime and art take center stage at this lighthearted event that draws thousands

What's Up



of collectors. Get in on celebrity photo ops and autograph sessions, as well as fan-cosplay meet-ups with authors, voice actors, creators and actors. Takes place on F from noon – 10 pm; on Sa from 10 am – 10 pm; and on Su from 10 am – 5 pm at the Tampa Bay Convention Center, 333 S Franklin St. Info: tampabay-omicconvention.com.

September 5 Gecko Fest

Gulfport: This fun end-of-summer street celebration honors Gulfport's unofficial mascot with live music, food trucks, libations and more! Enjoy costume contests, roving magicians, stilt walkers, acrobats, jugglers, a wacky walking parade, and a really wild Gecko Skateboard Race! Takes place from 10 am – 8 pm at 3101 Beach Blvd S. Info: visitgulfportflorida.com.

September 12 Totally Rad Vintage Fest

Tampa: Step into a time warp of style and nostalgia for a day of throwback fun. You'll find all kinds of cool clothing and accessories from the 80s, 90s and Y2K eras, as well as a big selection of toys, home goods and more. Then unleash your inner gamer at the Free-Play Vintage Arcade, and explore the Rad Rewind Museum with relics from the past. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at the Florida State Fairgrounds Expo Hall, 4800 US 301. Info & tickets: floridastatefair.com.

September 19 – 20 Comic Con

Ocala: Meet actors, voice actors and high profile personalities and dive into the world of cosplay, comic books and trading card games. Takes place on Sa from 10am – 6 pm

and on Su from 11 am – 5 pm at the World Equestrian Center, 1284 NW 87th Court Rd. Info & tickets: ocalacomicon.com.

September 24 – 27 XINSURANCE Clearwater Offshore Nationals

Clearwater: Some of the biggest and fastest offshore powerboat racers on the Gulf compete in this high octane race. Takes place on F from 5:30 – 10 pm; and on Sa from 11 am – 11 pm; and on Su from 11 am – 10 pm at 160 Gulfview Blvd. Info: clearwaterinternationals.com.

October 4 Oktoberfest Block Party

St Pete: Spanning a full block, this lively brewski extravaganza includes multiple music stages, German food trucks, Bavarian games, kids inflatables, costume contests, and lots of German beer. Takes place from Noon – 6 pm at 3 Daughters Brewery, 222 22nd Ave South, Info: 3dbrewing.com.

October 9 – 11 Oktoberfest

Tampa: Pull on the lederhosen for a day of Stein Hoisting, Keg Stacking, Carry the Wench, Corn Hole and more. Cold beer, authentic Bavarian food, treats and live music, too! Takes place on F from 4 – 11 pm; on Sa from 11 am – 11 pm; and on Su from 11 am – 6 pm at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, 600 N Ashley Dr. Info: oktoberfesttampa.com.

October 11 Taste of Latino Festival

Tampa: Enjoy authentic Latin food, including an Empanada Smackdown and Top Latino Chef Contest, live Latin music and dance performances, and recognition of Florida Latino & Latina Líderes at this annual family-friendly festival. Takes place from Noon – 6 pm in Centennial Park, Ybor City, 1800 E 8th Ave. Info: tasteoflatino.com.

October 17 – 19 Rocktoberfest

Sarasota: Feast on authentic German specialties including roasted ham hock, sausages, sauerkraut, cheese noodles, hot pretzels, pints of beer and more. German music, dancing and a festival marketplace,

too! Takes place on F from 4 – 10 pm; on Sa from 11 am – 10 pm; and on Su from 11 am – 6 pm at 199 Bayfront Dr. Info: destinationdowntownsarasota.com.

October 17 – 18 Seafood Festival

Cedar Key: A colorful parade, amazing art crafted from local cedar trees, live music, and fresh local seafood pays homage to Cedar Key's local fishing heritage. Takes place on Sa from 10 am – 5 pm; and on Su from 10 am – 4 pm at Second St and City Beach Front Park. Info: cedarkey.org.

October 23– 24 American Vintage Markets

Sarasota: Discover a big variety of recycled, repurposed and reimagined treasures — from architectural salvage, country and primitives to estate and vintage jewelry, glass and china, antiques, clothing, and more. Takes place from 9 am – 4 pm at Roberts Arena, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info & tickets: 904-377-0084; americanvintagemarkets.com.

October 24 Riverwalk Trick or Treat & Lighted Boat Parade

Tampa: This early evening of Trick or Treating, live music, food and street performers culminates with an eerie lighted holiday parade of "ghost boats" gliding along the Hillsborough River. Takes place from 4 – 7 pm in downtown Tampa. Boat Parade shoves off from 6:30 – 9 pm. Info: thetampariverwalk.com

October 30 – November 1 Pirate Invasion

Cedar Key: Local pirates pillage, plunder and battle to claim historic Cedar Key! Enjoy gun and cannon demos, wenchs, sea shanties, traditional grub and grog, costume contests, mermaids and more! Takes place on F from Noon – 7 pm; on Sa from 8 am – 6 pm; and on Su from 10 am – 3 pm at 192 2nd St. Info: cedarkeypiratefest.com.

November 7 – 8 Savor St. Pete

St Pete: The Bay Area's longest running food & wine festival features flavor-packed bites handcrafted by local chefs and paired with fine wines and microbrews. Takes place from



1– 4 pm in Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Dr NE. Info: savortheteburg.com.

November 7 – 8 38th Annual Tarpon Springs Seafood Festival

Tarpon Springs: Enjoy a vast selection of fresh local seafood dishes, landlubber specialties, and a mouthwatering Chef Showdown. Shopaholics can browse a curated collective of artisans showcasing unique art, crafts, fishing apparel, and more. Takes place on F from Noon – 9 pm; on Sa from 10 am – 9 pm; and on Su from 10 am – 5 pm on the Sponge Docks, 600 Hill St. Info: tarponspringsmerchantassociation.com.

November 8 50th Annual Christmas Under the Oaks

Clearwater: This popular local event features a big selection of handmade arts & crafts, unique gifts, and creative holiday themed products. The Food Court offers a great assortment of local food vendors with a diverse mix of offerings. Takes place from 9 am – 4 pm at St Petersburg College, 2465 Drews St. Info: fairsandfestivals.net.

November 12 – 22 Tampa Bay Holiday Market

St Pete: Shop over 100 local merchants offering everything from home essentials, unique handmade gifts, holiday decor, apparel, and more! Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at The Coliseum, 535 4th Ave N. Info: tampabay.com.

November 14 Santa's Grand Arrival Parade

Sarasota: Kick off the holidays with a grand parade featuring Santa Claus, marching bands, floats, and more, as well as a

spectacular light show and dazzling fireworks display. Takes place from 6 – 9:15 pm at 140 University TownCenter Dr. Info: utcsarasota.com.

November 17 16th Annual Ybor City Tree Lighting

Ybor City: Deck the halls with live music and holiday fun as Ybor City welcomes the holiday season. Free admission. Takes place from 6 – 8 pm at 1600 E 7th Ave. Info: ybor.org.

November 19 – 22 St Pete Bike Fest

Clearwater: Cited as this one of the best rallies in Florida, this four day event includes nightly concerts with national acts, vendors, bike shows, and lots more. Takes place daily from 11 am – 5 pm at Bert's Barracuda Harley Davidson 10575 49th St. Info: stpetebeachbikefest.com.

November 20 Centro Ybor Winter Spectacular

Ybor City: Deck the halls with live music and holiday fun as the season unfolds with a magical Santa photo experience, enchanting snow machines, a bustling holiday night market, tree lighting, and a cozy holiday movie under the stars. Takes place from 6 – 8 pm at Centro Ybor on 7th Ave. Info: ybor.org.

November 20 – December 27 Enchant Christmas:

Night of the Nutcrackers

St Pete: After a two-year hiatus, the world's largest Holiday Light Maze is back! Explore millions of sparkling lights; experience Night of the Nutcrackers, an all-new holiday adventure; shop a festive village marketplace; glide across the ice-skating trail, and meet Santa himself. FYI: You can even get a bird's eye view of all the holiday magic from Enchant's debut Ferris Wheel ride. Merry on! Takes place at Tropicana Field, 1 Tropicana Dr. Info & tickets: enchantchristmas.com.

November 28 – December 29 Tampa Bay Festival of Lights & Santa's Village

Tampa: With nearly two miles of more than a million lights, this animated drive-thru holiday light spectacular is truly a sight to behold! Not to be missed: the walking tour around Santa's Village which brims with holiday themed rides, activities, great shopping, and visits with Santa. Gates open at 6 pm at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds, 215 Sydney Washer Rd. Info: 813-737-3247; hillsboroughcountyfair.com.

November TBD Santa Parade & Tree Lighting

St Pete: This fun annual event also includes live entertainment and kicks off a month-long holiday celebration in the Sunshine City. The festivities start at 6:30 pm on the waterfront at N Straub Park, 480 Bayshore Dr SE. Info: 727-893-7441; stpeteparksrec.org.

November 29 Holiday Tree Lighting

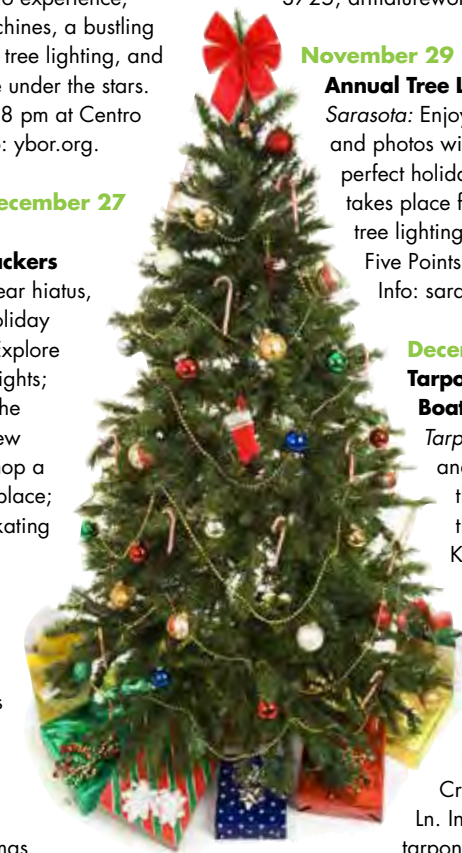
Tampa: Join Santa Claus and his merry elves for a night of live interactive entertainment, a Merry Makers Market and an exciting countdown the giant holiday tree lighting. Takes place from 5 – 9 pm at Armature Works, 1910 N Ola Ave. Info: 813-250-3725; armatureworks.com.

November 29 Annual Tree Lighting

Sarasota: Enjoy refreshments, music, and photos with Santa in this picture-perfect holiday setting. Festivities takes place from 6 – 8 pm with the tree lighting at 7 pm at Selby Five Points Park, 1 Central Ave. Info: sarasotaholidayparade.com.

December 4 Tarpon Springs Illuminated Boat Parade

Tarpon Springs: Join Santa and his holiday crew for this festive promenade through Tarpon Springs. Kicks off at 6 pm from Tarpon Landing Marina and ends at Craig Park & Spring Bayou around 8 pm. After the parade, the annual Candy Cane Hunt takes place at Craig Park, 100 Library Ln. Info: 727-937-6109; tarponspringschamber.org.



What's Up

December 4

48th Holiday Night of Lights

Sarasota: This twinkling Winter Wonderland brims with the cozy sounds of a holiday carol sing-a-long, dance performances by the Sarasota Academy of the Arts, family photo ops, a visit by Santa, and a 60' tall holiday tree lighting. Takes place from 5:30 – 8 pm at Armands Circle, 300 Madison Dr. Info: starmandcircleassoc.com.

December 5

Sarasota Holiday Parade: America 250

Sarasota: Enjoy a red, white and blue holiday celebration as Santa and his holiday crew light up the night with floats, music and a festive procession downtown along Main St. Takes place from 7 – 8:30 pm. Info: sarasotaholidayparade.com.

December 5

Riverwalk Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

Tampa: This illuminating holiday tradition includes a 30' LED holiday tree synchronized to music, and a floating 35' tall Christmas tree lighting up the river. Backdropping it all is a DJ spinning holiday tunes. Photos with Santa and special treats, too! Takes place from 5:30 – 7:30 pm in front of the Tampa Convention Center and Sail Pavilion, 333 S Franklin St. Info: thetampariverwalk.com.

December 5

Santa Fest Parade

Tampa: This spirited holiday parade kicks off from Morgan and Madison Sts and travels west on Madison St to Ashley Dr where it turns north and ends at Ashley Dr and Cass

St. Best viewing is along Madison St. Kicks off at 1 pm. Info: tampa.gov.

December 5

Santa Fest & Tree Lighting

Tampa: The city's annual Tree Lighting also includes a lively holiday concert, dazzling dancers, live entertainment, ice skating, kids activities and a festive holiday movie following the tree lighting. Takes place from 1 – 5 pm with a 6 pm Tree Lighting at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, 600 N Ashley Dr. Info: 813-274-8854; tampa.gov.



December 6

Snowfest

St Pete: Experience a Florida-style Winter Wonderland with toboggan rides, holiday inflatables, winter-themed arts & crafts, live music, food trucks and more! Takes place from 1 – 9 pm at N Straub Park, 400 Bayshore Dr NE. Info: 727- 893-7441; stpetestateparksrec.org.

December 6

Tarpon Springs Christmas Parade

Tarpon Springs: This sweet hometown parade includes marching bands, dancers, local community groups, a festive motorcade and more. Takes place from 10 am – 2 pm. Info: spongedocks.net.

December TBD

Santa Parade & Holiday Tree Lighting

St Pete: This spectacular seasonal tradition has all the bells and whistles: Santa Claus, marching bands, festive floats, dazzling waterfront park displays, and the illumination of the giant holiday tree. Holiday Parade kicks off at 6:30 pm followed by the Tree Lighting at North Straub Park, 400 Bayshore Dr NE. Info: stpeteparksrec.org/holidayevents

December 12

SantaCon

Cedar Key: Dress like Santa or in your holiday best and toast the holidays with a festive afternoon of seasonal spirits and merriment at four local watering holes. Takes place from 3 – 10 pm at various island locations. Info: 302-543-5600; cedarkey.org.

December 12 – 13

Atomic Holiday Bazaar

Sarasota: Over 230 vendors offer affordable and one-of-a-kind treasures including original art, vintage goods, clothing, and home decor, plus homemade goodies and more. Takes place from Noon – 5pm at the Sarasota Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info: sarasotafair.com.

December 19

Riverwalk Lighted Boat Parade

Tampa: Tampa's largest lighted boat parade shoves off at 6 pm from the ConventionCenter Basin, travels to the Heights, and ends at Sparkman Wharf where the judges will award their favorites. Info: 813-221-1539; thetampariverwalk.com.

December 31

New Year's Eve Parade

Tampa: Elaborate floats, over 20 marching bands, a Pep Rally and a special "Battle Of The Bands" celebrate the coming new year. Parade starts at 5:30pm and runs along 7th Ave in Ybor City. Info: outbackbowl.com.

December 31

New Yarrgh's Eve Booty Drop

Tampa: Celebrate New Year's with live entertainment, food and drinks, and a new signature "Booty Drop" countdown to midnight. See Rivergate Tower come to life with a 3-D mapped, 320 foot tall projection of a treasure chest being lowered on the side of the building. Takes place from 9 pm – 12:30 am at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, 600 N Ashley Dr. info: tampgov.net.



EVERY VISIT HELPS SAVE FLORIDA WILDLIFE



ZooTampa at Lowry Park is an award-winning conservation organization committed to the protection of wildlife. Voted among USA Today's 10 Best Zoos and 13-time winner of TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award, ZooTampa is Florida's most attended cultural institution offering unforgettable adventures to guests of all ages. Most notably, the Zoo is a champion for Florida species and the home to the largest nonprofit manatee rehabilitation centers in the United States treating more than 500 sick, injured, and orphaned manatees with the majority returning to Florida waters.

Kid's Rule!

LEGOLAND®! Is A Dream Come True

There's no doubt about it:
Kids rule at LEGOLAND®

This magical place is where princesses, knights, and adventurers roam; where dragons soar, castles are stormed, and pirates sail the seven seas.

Located just 45 minutes from downtown Tampa, LEGOLAND® Florida Resort is a truly amazing 150-acre interactive theme park built specifically for youngsters, ages 2+.

This ultimate, multi-day vacation destination includes the original LEGOLAND®, the LEGOLAND® Water Park and the nearby Peppa Pig Theme Park for pre-schoolers.

Divided into thirteen themed "Lands," the original LEGOLAND®, boasts over 50 rides, several action-packed shows, and lots of theme-related attractions.

Here are just a few highlights:

Designed just for toddlers, LEGOLAND'S® animal-themed DUPLO Village is an interactive play area that features larger-than-life LEGO bricks and plenty of hands-on activities. Little ones can fly a plane, drive a car and even explore a "kid-sized" town!

At "LEGO® Land Of Adventure," youngsters can hunt for hidden treasure, explore buried tombs, and experience the thrill of riding the "Coastersaurus" — a wild wooden roller coaster that zips in and around a prehistoric jungle of animated and life-sized LEGO brick



dinosaurs.

Rebuilding the world is the mission at Planet LEGOLAND® — a place where young visionaries can build, break down, and build again.

At "LEGO® Kingdom," time travelers of all ages can venture back to Medieval times where they'll

meet brave knights, beautiful damsels and fiery dragons.

In *The Lego® Movie™ World*, a dreamscape that brings the hit movie to life, aspiring film makers can

immerse themselves in three thrilling rides including *Masters of Flight*, *Unikitty's Disco Drop*, and the *Battle of Bricksburg*.

In *LEGO® Ninjago® World*, wannabe Ninjas can master important skills like blasting animated fireballs and bolts of lightning, to help conquer the "Great Devourer."

In addition to exploring 13 themed lands, kids of all ages (and heights) can splash down at LEGOLAND'S® Water Park. With an amazing 14 water slides, the park is also outfitted with the ultra-

cool AQUAZONE Wave Racers, where kids can race through the water to dodge water blasts. Young dare devils will revel in the *Twin Chasers* where they can speed down a set of 375' slides two-by-two, or race one another to the splashdown pool.

Fans of Peppa Pig can head next door to LEGOLAND'S® Peppa Pig Theme Park. Just for preschoolers, this playful place includes multiple rides, interactive attractions, themed playscapes, and an indoor cinema, as well as water play areas—complete with "muddy puddles," and fun live shows.

During peak times, Legoland® Florida Resort is generally open from 10 am to 8 pm, with extended hours on select dates. Find the fun at 1 Legoland Way in Winter Haven. Info: 877-350-5346; legoland.com/Florida.



Pirate River Quest Now Open!

Three Parks Over 50 Attractions One AWESOME Resort!

Visit your Guest Services Representative for ticket offers!

LEGOLAND.com/Florida • 1 LEGOLAND Way, Winter Haven, FL 33884



Scan Here

What's Up



December 31

Rock the New Year

Clearwater Beach: Ring in 2027 partying to live music, and dancing to the beats of one of the area's hottest deejays. Stick around until midnight for a champagne toast 'and a "Balloon Drop" fireworks display. Kicks off at 9 pm at 619 Gulfview Blvd. Info: 727-442-5107; lightupclearwater.com.

December 31

New Year's Eve at Armature Works

Tampa: Celebrate the New Year with outdoor music performances, skyline photo ops, pop-up bars, specialty cocktails, and live DJs. An exhilarating countdown to midnight kicks off an explosive grand finale fireworks show. Takes place from 7 pm – 1 am at Armature Works, 1910 N Ola Ave. Info: 813-250-3725; armatureworks.com.

December 31

First Night St Petersburg

St Pete: The family-friendly event features live music, dance, fire, bubble stomp, puppets, a scavenger hunt, aerial arts, and a special fireworks show for kids at 8 pm, followed by a second display at midnight. Takes place at South Straub Park, 198 Bayshore Dr. Info: firstnightstpete.com.

December 31

NYE on The Pier

St Pete: Outfitted with a huge disco ball and LED light displays, this free dance party includes live music and DJs, games, food trucks, full bar and champagne toasts. The celebration culminates with the largest midnight waterfront fireworks show in the area! Takes place from 8 pm – 12:30 am, rain or shine, at the St Pete Pier, 615 2nd Ave NE. Info: stpetepier.com.

January 8 – 10

Sarasota Winter Seafood & Music Festival

Sarasota: Indulge in a wide selection of dishes including fresh seafood, meats, and vegetarian options, all cooked onsite. Backdropping it all is a terrific lineup of live performances. Takes place from on F from 4:30 – 10 pm; on Sa from 11 am – 10 pm; and on Su from 11 am – 6 pm at the Sarasota Fairgrounds, 300 Ringling Blvd. Info: paragonfestivals.com.

January 14 – 17

St Petersburg Power & Sailboat Show

St Pete: The largest boat show on the Gulf Coast boasts an impressive lineup of powerboats and sailboats displayed in-water and on-land, along with a 40,000 sq ft tent housing an extensive selection of marine equipment and accessories. Other attractions include seminars, kid's fishing clinics, and on-water boat training courses. Takes place Th & F from 10 am – 6 pm; on Sa from 10 am – 7 pm; and on Su from 10 am – 5 pm at 400 1st St S. Info: stpeteboatshow.com.



OTHER FLORIDA HAPPENINGS

November 26 – December 31

Key West Holiday Fest

Key West: A merry range of celebrations during Key West's busy holiday season includes the Lighting of the Key West Bight,

the Harbor Walk of Lights, Holiday Historic Inn Tours, a spectacular lighted boat parade, and lots of good cheer. Other events that you won't want to miss: the annual hometown holiday parade, festive island lights tours on the Conch Tour Train and Old Town Trolley, seasonal artisan markets, bazaars, and multiple New Year's Eve "drops" that spoof New York City's annual Times Square Ball Drop. Info: keywestholidayfest.com

January 27 – 31

Key West Food & Wine Festival 2027

Key West: This award-winning series of wine and food-themed events showcases a diverse range of wines and inventive cuisine, hosted by their passionate creators at iconic island locations. Over twenty unique happenings, including waterfront tastings, Winemaker/Chef collaborations, and local funky events, present an authentic taste of Key West, Florida. This is truly THE place to be in January, and the festival attracts thousands of culinary explorers from around the country who descend on the tropical island to escape the winter and delight their senses. Info: keywestfoodandwinefestival.com.

February 5 – 7

ArtFest Ft Myers

Fort Myers: Southwest Florida's Premier Art Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary showcasing the works of 200+ outstanding professional artists from across the country.

The weekend also includes a high school art competition, children's craft area, sidewalk chalk extravaganza, and more.

Opening Night Party kicks things off on F from 6 – 9 pm and includes a special Pops Concert. The festival continues on Sa from 10 am – 5 pm and on Su from 10 am – 4 pm at Edwards Dr and Hendry St. Takes place throughout the historic downtown area. Info: ArtFestFortMyers.com.

February 21

69th DAYTONA 500

Daytona Beach: Don't miss the 69th running of "The Great American Race!" Historic performances, spectacular racing, amazing memories, and being here in person will stay with you for a lifetime. Takes place at Daytona International Speedway, at 1801 W International Speedway Blvd. Info: 800-748-7467; daytonainternationalspeedway.com.

XPLORE TAMPA /CLEARWATER

CORONA CIGAR TAMPA

Metwest Shopping Center
4142 Boy Scout Blvd,
Tampa FL 33607
813-513-7560; coronacigar.com
M & Tu 9 am – Midnight;
W & Th 9 am – 1 am;
F & Sa 9 am – 2 am;
Su 10 am – Midnight

The Ultimate Premium Cigar Experience

You'll find only the best cigars and libations at this smoking hot cigar emporium which boasts over 5,000 square feet of humidified space, multiple lounges both indoor and out, and an elegant full service bar with over 100 different spirits. In addition to *Davidoff*, *Camacho*, *Avo*, *Room 101*, *BG Meyer*, *Griffin's* and *Zino Platinum Cigars*, you can also savor special featured cigars from renowned brands like *Padron*, *MyFather*, *Montecristo*, *Ashton*, *Fuente*, *Tatuaje* and *Illusione*. The store features a big assortment of pipes, humidors, lighters, cutters and other smoking accessories, as well.

FLORIDA AQUARIUM

701 Channelside Dr., Tampa, FL 33602
M – Su 9:30 am – 5 pm

813-273-4000; aquarium.org

One of the Country's Top 10 Aquariums

This large scale 250,000 square foot "kid-friendly" aquarium is a "must see" when you're in the area. Come face to fin with some of the world's apex predators, see eye-to-eye with sea turtles, feel a jelly bell and take in hundreds of fish species. There's also a free flying bird aviary and an exciting Wild Dolphin Cruise.

FOX HOLLOW GOLF CLUB

10050 Robert Trent Jones Pkwy
Trinity, FL 34655

Call For Hours

727-376-6333; golfthefox.com

Tampa's Finest Semi-Private Golf Club

Cited as one of the top three public-access courses in West Central Florida, this local favorite has the distinction of being one of the last courses designed and built by the legendary Robert Trent Jones, Sr – one of the most prolific and innovative golf course designers of all time. This



Get face-to-face with all your favorite creatures and enjoy over 20,000 amazingly close encounters of the sea kind. Here you can actually **Journey to Madagascar** and meet adorable ring-tailed lemurs and many other exotic species at this cool exhibit. There's something for everyone. Even a **Wild Dolphin Cruise*** where you can search for dolphins in Tampa Bay.

*Reservations and additional fees are required.

**THE FLORIDA
AQUARIUM**
DOWNTOWN TAMPA
flaquarium.org | 813.273.4000

Xplore

par 71 championship course has hosted local qualifiers for the US Open, as well as qualifying for the PGA Tour's Valspar Championship. With rolling fairways, gentle undulations, abundant water hazards and excellent bunkering, this premier semi-private 18 hole tree-lined course features five sets of tees and offers new challenges every time you play here.

ZOOTAMPA

Lowry Park
1101 W Sligh Ave,
Tampa, FL 33604
Daily 9:30 am – 5 pm
813-9358552;
zootampa.org.
Featured On Animal Planet
Voted the #1 Family Friendly Zoo in the US, this 65 acre lush tropical habitat is home to more than 1300 resident animals and offers lots of opportunities to get up close and personal with giraffes, rhinos, exotic birds, stingrays and more. The emphasis here is on endangered and vulnerable species, as well as on conservation and education. Love manatees? At the David A Straz Jr Manatee Hospital, the Zoo's veterinary and animal



care staff treat sick, injured and orphaned manatees before returning them to the wild after rehabilitation. The Zoo also cares for the most diverse group of Florida wildlife anywhere, and has won numerous awards for animal preservation. There's also a cool splash pad for kids, several rides and fun play areas.

RON JON SURF SHOP

377 Mandalay Ave
Clearwater Beach, FL
727-286-5888
ronjonsurfshop.com
Open Daily
The World's Most Famous Surf Shop
This iconic lifestyle shop carries the best

The Perfect 10

Making Waves with Ron Jon

It was 1959 when young Ron DiMenna, began selling fiberglass surfboards out of his parent's attic on the Jersey Shore.

Surfing was just catching on here and it was making big waves with teens across the country. Amplified by Hollywood movies and freewheeling music from *The Beach Boys*, *The Surfaris*, and *Jan & Dean*, it soon became a pop-culture phenomenon

Initially, the West Coast was the epicenter of it all. Just about every major surf brand and surfboard maker waxed their boards there. California was the place to go if you wanted one of the newest fiberglass surfboards.

And that's exactly what Ron

DiMenna did.

The enormous demand for custom surfboards in the East inspired Ron to haul back not one, but three, fiberglass boards. He sold the extra two boards in a Jersey minute and suddenly found himself at point break.

In 1961, Ron opened his first Ron Jon Surf Shop at a trailer park on Long Beach Island, New Jersey. The tiny shop not only sold fiberglass surfboards but also supplied customers with boards to sell out of their own East Coast surf shops.

Two years later, the spirited entrepreneur headed to Florida to launch a "one of a kind" Ron Jon Surf Shop in Cocoa Beach. It was an



instant hit.

Ron Jon Surf Shop is now the world's most renowned surf shop and has locations around the globe. So if you're looking to kick back in some relaxed island threads, the latest surf fashion, or check out Jon Surf Shop in Clearwater Beach at 77 Mandalay Ave, St. Info: 727-286-5888; ronjonsurfshop.com.

Fox Hollow

GOLF CLUB

A Robert Trent Jones Sr. Design



Tampa Bay's Favorite Place to Play Golf



For Tee Times Call
(727) 376-6333

Or Online At
foxhollowgolfclub.com

10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway Trinity, FL 34655



Fun in the Sun



The World's Most Famous surf shop offers the best apparel and accessories for the surf and beach lifestyle.

503 Front Street • (305) 293-8880 • RonJonSurfShop.com

apparel and accessories for the surf, skate and beach crowd. Whether you're looking for relaxing island wear, the latest surf fashion or Ron Jon souvenirs, this is your place in the sun.

SARASOTA

CORONA CIGAR SARASOTA

22 N Lemon Ave,
Sarasota, FL;
800-702-4427; coronacigar.com
M & Tu 9 am – Midnight;
W & Th 9 am – 1 am; F & Sa 9 am – 2 am;
Su: 10 am – Midnight
The Ultimate Premium Cigar Experience
You'll find only the best cigars and libations at this smoking hot cigar emporium which boasts over 5,000 square feet of humidified space, multiple lounges both indoor and out, and an elegant full service bar with over 100 different spirits. In addition to Davidoff, Camacho, Avo, Room 101, BG Meyer, Grif n's and Zino Platinum Cigars, you can also savor special featured cigars from renowned brands like Padron, MyFather Montecristo, Ashton, Fuente, Tatva and Illusione. The store features a big assortment of pipes, humidors, lighters, cutters and other smoking accessories, as well.

MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

1811 S Palm Ave,
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-366-5731; selby.org
Daily 10 am – 5 pm
A Quiet & Spectacular Oasis
Nestled on the shores of beautiful Sarasota Bay, this tropical, urban oasis showcases unparalleled horticulture displays and is a world-class center for education, research



and education. There is just so much to see here including a Conservatory that looks and feels like a tropical forest, Fern Garden, Bamboo Garden, Banyan Grove, Mangroves and Baywalk, Bromeliad Garden, Butterfly Garden, Children's Rainforest and more.

THE RINGLING

5401 Bayshore Rd,
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-359-5700; ringling.org
Daily 10 am – 5 pm
The Greatest Show On Earth
The Ringling Circus may be gone but it is certainly not forgotten. This State Art Museum is home to one of the preeminent art and cultural collections in the US which John

Ringling, in the spirit of America's wealthiest Gilded Age, began acquiring in the 1920s. The museum now houses a treasure trove of paintings and art objects as well as a Circus Gallery which showcases performers wardrobes, beautifully carved parade wagons, lithographic circus posters, a cannon which shot fearless performers across the big top and so much more. FYI: Check out the interactive Tibbals Learning Center where you can experience the excitement of a day at the circus.

WINTER HAVEN

LEGOLAND®

1 Legoland Way
Winter Haven, FL 33884
M 10 am – 5 pm; Th – F 10 am – 5 pm;
Sa & Su 10 am – 6 pm;
877-350-5346; legoland.com/Florida
365 Days Of Awesome!
This amazing 150-acre interactive theme park is just 45 minutes from downtown Tampa and is specifically designed for families with kids who are between the ages of two and twelve. The park features more than 50 unique rides, engaging shows and some really cool attractions. Imaginations soar at the "DUPLO Village" where youngsters can fly a plane, drive a car and explore a "kid-sized" town. At "LEGO Kingdom," they can travel back to Medieval Times where they'll meet brave knights, beautiful damsels and fiery dragons. In the "Land Of Adventure," they can hunt for hidden treasure and explore buried tombs. And that's only the beginning!



Good Eats

TAMPA AREA

ACROPOLIS GREEK TAVERNA

3023 W. Kennedy
Tampa, FL 33609
Su – Th 11 am – 11 pm;
F 11 am – 1am; Sa 11 am – 2am
813-877-8200
dinegreek.com
Greek Food! Greek Wine! Greek Fun!
Cited as as one of Tampa's Top Ten Restaurants by USA Today, this local favorite is renowned for its fine revival dining and high energy vibe. Authentic Greek dishes include a big variety of wonderful Shareables like Spanakopita (phyllo pastry dough stuffed with spinach and feta); Sautéed Ouzo Mussels (in creamy ouzo sauce with garlic, onion, basil, and tomato); and Sautéed Shrimp Tinos (in Santorini lemon garlic wine sauce). The impressive list of Specialties is just as alluring. You'll find iconic plates like Greek Meatballs over orzo and topped with marinara sauce and feta cheese; Steak, Chicken and Kefta Beef Kabobs; Char-



Broiled Wild-Caught Salmon with roasted red pepper sauce, cherry tomatoes and onions; and Penne Pasta Santorina in garlic lemon wine sauce mixed with chicken, mushrooms, onions, roasted red peppers, pesto and green peppers. There's also a great selection of Wraps, Salads, & Platters. FYI: Things get

really wild here on Friday and Saturday nights with Zorba dancing, napkin tossing, and plate breaking which immerses you in a true Greek experience. You can also find other local locations in Riverview, New Tampa, and St Pete.

Holiday Eggnog Recipe

If you want to become known amongst your family and friends for serving up the best homemade eggnog on the planet, this recipe is just the ticket. Cheers!

Ingredients:
8 eggs, separated, 1-1/2 cups sugar, 2 cups light rum, 2 cups spiced rum; 2 cups Makers Mark Bourbon, 2 Tablespoons finely ground nutmeg (the finer ground, the better) 2 cups heavy cream, 6 cups milk.

Directions:
Step 1: Beat the whites of 8 eggs until soft peaks form. Set aside.
Step 2: Beat the yolks of 8 eggs until thick and lemon colored.
Step 3: Gradually beat in sugar with the egg yolks.
Step 4: Add the light rum or rum flavoring and ground nutmeg. Beat until mixed.
Step 5: With a whisk or spoon, stir in 2 cups of heavy cream and all of the milk.
Step 6: Add the egg white mixture to the rum mixture and fold together until blended.
Step 7: Chill the nog until ready to serve. Stir with a whisk before serving.

This festive nog can be made the night before. Just stir with a whisk before serving.

Tampa At A Glance

So Much To See And Do!

Tampa Bay – the second largest metro area in Florida – offers a variety of treasures in the communities that surround its beautiful waters. From gleaming high rises and the rich Latin heritage of Tampa, to St. Petersburg’s European-style charm of café-lined streets along the nation’s most beautiful waterfront, and to Clearwater’s white sand beaches, Tampa Bay offers everything under the sun.

A visitor here can enjoy it all within a 45-minute drive from their hotel. Three bridges span Tampa Bay, and the drive yields a spectacular vista of all that is Florida: palm trees, gliding pelicans and dolphins paint a picture of a paradise where summer never ends.

Thirty-five miles of some of the best beaches in the world border the Gulf of Mexico: from Clearwater’s pristine Caladesi Island to south beyond St. Petersburg and the expansive Fort de Soto Beach. Here, fresh grouper is king,

and golden sunsets are the dessert to cap off a perfect day in the sun.

Just minutes away in downtown St. Petersburg, this resort city boomed while the big bands played and is now home to a thriving arts community.

Seven arts districts, dozens of galleries, world-class museums such as the Dali Museum and the Chihuly Collection, and a rising curtain on a host of performing arts rival the best arts cities in the world. And, sandwiched between museums and galleries, is stylish Beach Drive, a European promenade with open-air cafés overlooking beautiful waterfront parks, Mediterranean-tiled towers and the masts of sailboats.

Tampa’s Busch Gardens is not only one of America’s most popular theme parks with heart-palpitating rollercoasters, but it is also home to



one of the largest zoos in the United States.

Downtown Tampa’s Riverwalk provides a linear path past the Tampa Museum of Art, Curtis Hixon Park and the city’s gleaming business district.

And less than a minute away, the Ybor City Historic District, where former cigar factories transformed into restaurants and nightclubs and the smell of Cuban coffee seems to seep from the old hexagon block sidewalks.

From the shores of Tampa Bay, discover everything from 21st century cities embracing the future, to spine-tingling rollercoasters, the crack of a Major League Baseball bat and the perfect place to nestle your toes in the sand. We invite you to explore and discover the treasures of Tampa Bay.



Hyde Park

Hyde Park Village today is a charming area with locally owned national boutiques and restaurants.

A historic neighborhood and district located within the city limits of Tampa. It includes Bayshore Boulevard, Hyde Park Village and SoHo.

Hyde Park is located adjacent to the University of Tampa and Downtown. The neighborhood history begins back in the 1880s when railroad financier Henry B. Plant built the first bridge across the Hillsborough River at Lafayette Street (now John F. Kennedy Blvd). The first house was built by James Watrous in 1882.

Growth occurred rapidly and a street car line was put in on Swann

Ave and Rome Ave. This is the reason for the wideness of the two streets, while most in the neighborhood are much narrower. The area where Old Hyde Park

Village is today was originally called Cork Ave. Dakota Ave., Cork Ave., and Inman Ave. all intersected near where the British pay phone sits today.



The only portion left of Cork Ave. today is called Snow Ave. Hyde Park Village today is a charming area with locally-owned and national boutiques and restaurants.

Enjoy Award-Winning Cuisine At Tampa's Most Beautiful Waterfront Restaurant!

Jackson's
BISTRO • BAR • SUSHI

601 S Harbour Island Blvd,
Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 277-0112
jacksonsbistro.com

Lunch | Dinner | Sunday Brunch | Saturday Night Dancing



ANCHOR AND BRINE

Tampa Marriott Water Street
505 Water Street,
Tampa, FL 33602
813-204-6388;
anchorandbrine.com
M – F 11 am – 10 pm
Sa & Su 10 am – 11 pm
Seafood Centric Dining, Sushi & Raw Bar
Chef, restaurateur and entrepreneur,
Richard Sandoval is acclaimed for his
innovative culinary techniques and award-
winning flavors that span 50 locations
and five continents. Here, his refined yet
approachable seafood centric menu shines
with an excellent selection of inventive
dishes. Small Plates include Sautéed Mussels,
Smoked Grouper Dip and Exotic Mushroom
Flatbread. Large Plates are just as enticing
with items like Seared Salmon with corn
puree and edamame salsa; Chicken Milanese
with marinated heirloom cherry tomatoes;
and Pasta Pescatore, a wonderful melange
of calamari, shrimp, mussels and lobster
in Pomodoro sauce served over linguine.
A terrific Sushi and Raw Bar, along with a
beautiful waterfront terrace is the topping on
the cake!

AVA
718 South Howard
Ave
Tampa, FL
813-512-3030
avatampa.com
M 5 – 10 pm;
Tu – Th 5 – 10 pm;
F 5 – 11 pm;
Sa 10:30 am – 2 pm;
5 – 11 pm;
Su 10:30 am – 2:30
pm; 5 – 9 pm
Inspired Modern Italian
Chef Lister’s simple
and rustic dishes are
truly authentic and
crafted with fresh,
seasonal ingredients.
You’ll find a big
selection of handmade
pasta, Neapolitan
pizza, inspired Italian
plates, wood-grilled
specialties and Vegan
options. Starters
include beautifully
plated items like
the Hamachi Crudo
with jalapeño, citrus
and chive oil; Prime
Beef Carpaccio with
Truffle aioli, micro

arugula, and crouton; and PEI Mussels
with white wine, pesto and cream. Main
Events include Short Rib Ragù with red
wine sofrito, tomatoes, rigatoni and ricotta
cheese; Cavatelli with fennel saga, rapini,
cannellini beans, garlic, Calabrian chilis,
pecorino Romano; Saffron Risotto
Alla Milanese with grilled
Mexican blue shrimp; Grilled
Salmon with chili mustard
glaze; and the Duo of
Grilled Lamb Chops
with lamb sausage
caponata, currant
emulsion and aged
balsamic. Magnifico!

GARRISON TAVERN
Tampa Marriott Water
Street
505 Water Street,
Tampa, FL 33602
813-221-6390;
tampamarriottwatersstreet.com
Daily 11 am – 2 am
Elevated Gastro Pub & Virtual Sports
World-renowned celebrity chef, Richard
Sandoval never seems to slow down. With

dozens of acclaimed restaurants to his credit,
Sandoval’s waterfront “social house” may
be one of his most unique venues. Situated
in a one-of-a-kind space along the Tampa
Riverwalk, his contemporary take on the
age-old tavern concept is a lively dining and
entertainment experience. With a relaxed
open layout outfitted with large communal
tables, it’s all about social connection. It’s no
surprise that the menu here is chef-driven.
Sandoval re-energizes comfort food into
a robust collection of scratch-made plates
that include Beef Barbacoa Nachos; Crispz
Fried Chicken Wings; Grilled Flat Iron Steak;
Smoky Gouda Mac & Cheese; a Tavern
Butcher’s Burger made with house-ground
Florida raised grass-fed beef; and lots of
other handhelds. The friendly space also
boasts Florida’s first “Top Golf Swing Suite,”
a very cool virtual sporting experience that is
as immersive as the food. *A really fun hang!*

JACKSON’S
Bistro•Bar•Sushi
601 S Harbour Island Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33602
813-277-0112
jacksonbistro.com
M – Th 11 am – 10 pm;
F 11 am – 11 pm;
Sa 10 am – 11 pm;
Su 10 am – 10 pm
Weekend Brunch 10 am – 3 pm
Voted Best Sushi In Tampa
Jackson’s view alone makes it worth the
visit but the food here is the real star of the
show — especially if you love sushi. The
stellar lineup includes a terrific selection of
Appetizers, Nigiri & Sashimi,
Signature Rolls, Asian
Platters and Poke
Bowls. If sushi isn’t
your jam, you
can opt for
one of the
Market Fresh
Seafood
or Meat
Dishes. The
big menu
features items
like Kimchi
Chilean Sea
Bass, Faroe
Island Jerk Salmon,
Surf & Turf, Southern
Roasted Chicken, a 16
oz Ribeye, and Double-Cut
Pork Chop. There’s also a good selection of
Salads and Handhelds including a delicious
two-fisted All-American Smash Burger.
Outstanding!



Brew, Brats & Schnitzel

17th Annual Oktoberfest Tampa



Break out your lederhosen,
dirndls and beer steins because
when Munich, Germany’s
famous Oktoberfest celebration wraps
up in September — some 16 days
and 14 million pints of beer after it
began — Tampa Bay’s 17th Annual
Oktoberfest celebration will just be
getting started.

Cited as one of the “Top 5”
Oktoberfests in the US, this year’s
bash kicks off on Friday, October 9
and runs through Sunday, October 11
at Curtis Hixon Park which magically
transforms into the city’s largest
waterfront biergarten for this family
and pet-friendly event.

A full authentic Bavarian Food
and Beer Hall will serve up pleasing
pilsners, hearty hefeweizens,
delicious dunkels and the traditional
Oktoberfest Märzens plus plenty

of German and Bavarian foods
(bratwurst, currywurst, sauerkraut,
chicken schnitzel, warm pretzels and
other goodies) all available in mass
quantities throughout the three day
celebration.

But it wouldn’t be
Oktoberfest with
just food and
drink. There
will also be
plenty of
singing and
dancing, as
well as lots of
goofy games
like the “Liter Stein
Bucket Race,” (running
an obstacle course without spilling
your buckets of beer) “Carry the
Wench,” a race where you carry your
date on your back, “Tug of War,”

“Keg Stacking” and so much more.

General admission is just \$10 for
adults and free for kids. VIP tickets
are also available and include a
commemorative one liter acrylic stein,
complimentary re-fills, open bar,

table-side service, express
entry, VIP Tent access
and Konig’s Feast - a
full food plate with
all the fixings.

Tales place
on Friday from
4 pm – 11 pm;
on Saturday from
11 am – 11 am; and
on Sunday from 11
am – 6 pm at Curtis Hixon
Waterfront Park, 600 N Ashley
Dr, Tampa. For more info go to
oktoberfesttampa.com.
Prost!



Good Eats



LONA

Tampa Marriott Water Street
505 Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602
813-221-4900; lonatampa.com
Daily 6:30 am – 11 pm
Dynamic Modern Mexican Cuisine
This collaboration between internationally acclaimed Chefs, Richard Sandoval and Pablo Salas brings out the best of the best. While their creative and contemporary approach to traditional Mexican dining pays homage to Mexico's rich culinary heritage, it also takes traditional dishes to a whole new level. Their curated menu showcases a fusion of regional Mexican cuisines with a mind-blowing array of bold and authentic flavors. From delectable street food favorites to refined dishes inspired by ancient recipes, Sandoval's and Salas' masterful collaboration celebrates the diversity and complexity of Mexican gastronomy. *Not to be missed!*

SKYYE BAR & GRILL

Tampa Airport Marriott
4200 George J Bean Parkway
Tampa, FL 33607
813-998-3705;
tampamarriottairport.com
Daily 3 – 11 pm
Skip the Taxi
Who knew that you get find some really good eats right off the tarmac? Conveniently located in the Tampa Airport Marriott, and just a short indoor walk down the terminal, is the hotel's Skyye Bar & Grill. In addition to the panoramic bird's-eye views, you'll also find a varied menu with just about anything you could hanker. Appetizers range from Fried Calamari, Wings, and Pan-Fried

Potstickers, to almost a dozen salads and handhelds. If you're looking for something heartier, you can always opt for one of the Main Plates which include entrees like Airway Meatloaf, Hull Huli Salmon, and Asian Infused Quinoa Stir-Fry. FYI: Save room for the Chocolate Bourbon Cake!

ST PETERSBURG AREA

AZURA COASTAL KITCHEN & BAR

At Hotel Zamora
3701 Gulf Blvd., St Pete Beach, FL 3306
727-456-8660; thehotelzamora.com
Breakfast 9 am – 11:30 pm;
Brunch 11:30 am – 2:30 pm;
Lunch 11:30 am – 4 pm;
Dinner 5 pm Close
Coastal Mediterranean Fare & Water Views
With an expansive veranda overlooking the Intracoastal, Zamora's signature restaurant is a top choice for breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner. Prepare yourself for some really outstanding traditional and contemporary fare. From Banana Foster French Toast and Lemon Blueberry Pancakes; to Crispy Calamari and Lobster Rolls; to Chicken Saltimbocca and Chilean Sea Bass – the chefs here always



deliver delicious, eye-popping plates. Other noteworthy main dishes include the Grilled Salmon with spinach and feta puff pastry; Lobster A La Vodka Pasta; Wagyu Bolognese; and the slow braised Short Rib.

THE LURE

661 Central Ave.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-914-8000
thelurestpete.com
M – Th 11 am – 10 pm;
F & Sa 11 – Midnight;
Su 11 am – 10 pm;
Weekend Brunch 11 am – 2 pm
Tikis, Tapas & Billiards, Oh My!
With an inviting island vibe, edgy menu, and two red felted pool tables, this local hot spot attracts a lively and eclectic crowd. Don't be surprised to see leather-clad Bikers rubbing elbows with suited-up Judges reveling in the specialty tacos, signature sushi, creative flatbreads, and amazing "Fast Plates." Stand-outs include the Blackened Redfish Tacos with Chihuahua cheese, and jalapeño sour cream; Pan-Seared Shishito Peppers with sesame oil, honey and feta cheese; Braised Pork Belly topped with apple chutney and a habanero honey drizzle; and the Fig & The Pig Flatbread topped with aged Prosciutto, fresh black Mission figs, fig jam, and white truffle four cheese blend. If you're ready to ditch the ordinary, this one's for you!

NOBLE CRUST

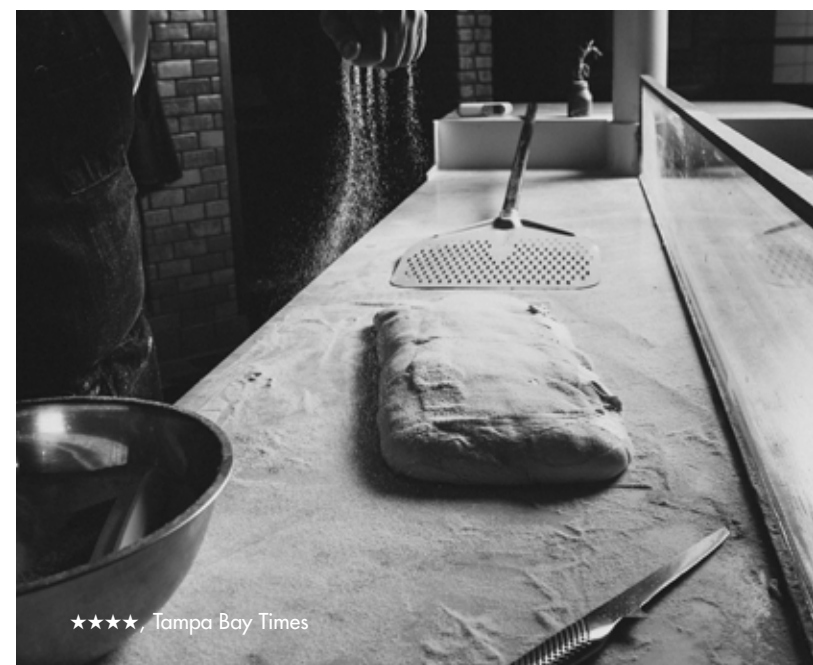
8300 4th St N,
St Petersburg, FL 33702
277-329-6041
noble-crust.com
M 4 – 10 pm;
Tu – Th 11:30 am – 10 pm;
F 11 am – Midnight;
Sa 10 am – Midnight;
Su 11 am – 10 pm;
Deep South Italian
With a polished yet well-worn vibe, and a seasonal menu that features locally grown ingredients, this hip casual Italian eatery is one the area's most inventive dining spots. The modern, ever-evolving creations include items like Beef & Pork Meatballs with red sauce and ricotta; a Fried Green Tomato BLT with honey glazed pork belly and pimento cheese; and a Chicken Parm Sandwich with house mozzarella, tomato sauce, and basil on a garlic buttered

(continued on page 38)

THE LANDON



717 S Howard Ave Tampa 813-250-1661 | thelandonrestaurant.com



★★★★, Tampa Bay Times

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Surprising St. Pete

"One Of The World's 52 Must See Places!"



Just a half hour from Tampa and Clearwater, St. Pete boasts a rich cultural scene, one of North America's largest and most beautiful downtown waterfronts and a climate that holds a world record for the most consecutive days of sunshine.

In fact, the New York Times recently named St. Petersburg as one of the "52

must see places in the world."

Also ranked as America's #1 Arts Destination and Crafts Town, the Sunshine City is home to seven arts districts, dozens

of galleries and world-class museums including the Dali and the Chihuly Collection.

The Florida Orchestra and a host of other performing arts also make St Pete a rival for one the world's best cultural cities.

Sandwiched between museums and galleries, is stylish Beach Drive,

a European promenade with open-air cafés overlooking a ribbon of green city parks and the sparkling waters of Tampa Bay.

Downtown, you'll discover great shopping including eclectic home-grown businesses in the Grand Central District.

After dark, the city really hops. A thriving craft beer industry and a 24/7 downtown attracts the largest cluster of bars and entertainment spots in the Tampa Bay area.

Hard to believe that this hip city was once known as just a sleepy retirement destination because it's now a huge draw for all ages and just ranked as Florida's #1 spot for relocation among millennials.



Where classic elegance meets historic charm

The Vinoy Resort and Golf Club stands as a premier destination for travelers and locals, offering elevated experiences and creative programming like the History Tour & High Tea. With six distinctive dining venues, two resort pools, and a holistic spa, it reflects a century of rich social culture. As the celebration of its 100-year anniversary begins in 2025, this milestone becomes an integral part of the vibrant experiences that define The Vinoy.

The Vinoy Resort & Golf Club
501 5th Ave. NE, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
+1 727.894.1000 | TheVinoy.com



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727.823.1010

DINEGREEK.COM

Good Eats



brioche bun. FYI: Don't pass up the signature pizza with the restaurant's legendary sourdough crust and creative topping combinations. Top Picks: The Figgy Piggy (mozzarella + fontina, figs, bacon, olives, goat cheese, arugula, Calabrian honey + béchamel sauce; and the Pear + Burrata Pizza (pesto, gorgonzola, caramelized onion, fresh pear, torn burrito + balsamic Calabrian honey. It's one wild, culinary ride!

THE VINOY RESORT & GOLF CLUB

501 5th Ave, St Petersburg, FL 33701
727-894-1000;
thvinoy.com
Hours Vary
A Vibrant Dining & Social Hub
With seven distinctive dining options, this cherished St Pete landmark is an iconic dining destination that boasts a wonderfully diverse culinary lineup. From fresh brews and house made patisseries at *Lottie*, the resort's classic French café; to local seafood and international dishes on the marina at *Paul's Landing*; to creative Latin cuisine on the *Veranda*, aka "*St Pete's Front Porch*", dining here is a cause célèbre. FYI: The resort's culinary offerings are expanding with the addition of the exciting new *Elliott Aster*, an elevated fine-dining experience by Chef Lee Wolen and the Boka Restaurant Group (coming in 2025). *Stay tuned!*

CLEARWATER AREA

BASCOM'S CHOP HOUSE

3665 Ulmerton Rd,
Clearwater, FL 33762
727-573-3363; bascoms.com
Lunch: M – F 11:30 – 2:30 pm
Dinner: M – Th 5 – 9 pm;
F 5 – 9:30 pm; Sa – 4:30 – 9:30 pm; Su 4 – 9 pm
Award-Winning Steak House With A Modern Twist
Helmed by acclaimed chef, Tony Bonanno, this elegant Chop House is heralded for its exceptional meat preparations and expansive menu. All the steaks here are Certified Angus Midwestern grain-fed steer, wet-aged in-house for a minimum of 28 days. Chef Bonanno has a flair for combining flavors and methods from around the world and his inspiring cuisine is all his own. Bonanno's seafood preparations are also especially wonderful



and include creations like Pecan Crusted Grouper, Chilean Sea Bass, and Shrimp Scampi Pasta. Whether it's steak or seafood, you can't go wrong with anything on Bonanno's menu.

KATCH BISTRO

Karol Hotel
2675 Umberton Rd,
Clearwater, FL 33762
727-273-7850; thekarolhotel.com
M – Th 7 am – 9 pm; F 7 am – 10 pm;
Sa 8 am – 10 pm; Su 8 am – 3 pm
Inventive Gulf-To-Table Cuisine
Local seafood creations headline a terrific lineup of gourmet creations that include elevated appetizers like Creole Shrimp with fennel sausage in chili lime broth; Fried Deviled Eggs with truffle aioli and bacon; and crispy Brussels Sprouts with chili honey sauce and bacon. Sea and Land entrees rock the boat with options like Champagne Grouper; Pesto Gulf Shrimp; Atlantic Seared Salmon; Braised Short Rib; and Hot Honey Half Chicken. *Really lovely!*

CEDAR KEY

BIG DECK BAR & GRILL

331 Dock St.,
Cedar Key, FL 32625
352-543-9992
Su – Th 11 am – 9 pm;
F & Sa 11 am – 12:30 am;
A Diamond in the Rough
Don't be fooled by the look of this rough hewn open-air hangout. It may not be fancy, and the bar can get a bit rowdy but the food here is damn good. If you like steamers, nothing even comes close to the locally farmed, sweet and juicy Cedar Key Clams. Needless to say, the seafood here is exceptionally fresh and includes a variety shrimp, oysters and fish preparations. If you're not a seafood lover, you can bib up for the Smoked Slab of Ribs or Pig Wings slathered in butter, garlic and parsley. Lots of burger options, too, as well as sandwiches, quesadillas, wraps, and Po' Boys. Heads up: Most everything is served on styrofoam plates with plastic utensils so no need to get dressed up.

Clearwater

For Everything Under The Sun



From its renowned white sand beaches, amazing marine life and glorious weather, to fabulous dining, shopping, cultural attractions and festivals, Clearwater has it all. Lots of sports and recreational activities also make it a perfect place to stay and play.

So it wasn't surprising when USA Today readers named this popular year-round destination as "Best Beach Town," and "Best Place To Watch A Sunset," and also voted the Clearwater Marine Aquarium as "Best Florida Attraction."

Remember Winter, the dolphin with a prosthetic tail made famous in the blockbuster movie, "Dolphin Tale?" Well, you can see her here at the Marine Aquarium which focuses on rehabilitation and education. And speaking of dolphins, you may be greeted by any number of six-foot tall

dolphins - 115 of them in fact, that comprise the Clearwater Dolphins Trail which extends from Tarpon Springs to St. Petersburg.

If shopping's your bag (and even if it's not) head on over to Westfield Countryside Mall. With 180+ retailers, twelve movie theaters, an indoor ice-skating rink and Restaurant Row, it has just about everything you need for a day of fun.

Another "Must-See": the free nightly Sunset Celebration at Pier 60 which includes local artisans, street performers, musicians and terrific live entertainment.

For true world-class entertainment, check out the performance lineup at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Long a mainstay of the Tampa

Bay Cultural scene and downtown Clearwater's beautifully restored Capitol Theatre, it hosts some of the hottest acts in the US. So come see for yourself because Clearwater really does have it all!



Award-Winning Steakhouse Fare

Bascom's Chop House

There's something truly magical sitting down at an elegant, traditional American Chop House. It's an experience that goes beyond just a meal—it's a celebration of flavors, textures, and top-notch service. And while many places claim to have the best steaks, few hit the mark. But let me tell you about a place that absolutely nails it: Bascom's Chop House in Clearwater.

This isn't just any steakhouse; Bascom's has been crowned "The Best Steakhouse" for several years running. And that's not all—they've also snagged awards for Fine Dining and Most Romantic Restaurant.

What makes Bascom's so special? It's the whole package: refined service, artisan cocktails, a stellar wine list, and a setting that's both gracious and inviting.

Kick off your meal with their

incredible Fried Lobster appetizer. It's a guest favorite for a reason—think succulent lobster with an orange pepper glaze and garlic cream. It's the perfect indulgence to start your evening.

And if you're a bacon lover, you can't miss the Billionaire's Bacon.

This isn't just any bacon—it's slow-roasted pork belly with a sweet and hot glaze. One bite, and you'll be hooked.

Now, if you're looking for a showstopper, the Japanese Wagyu Tomahawk is where it's at. This A5 BMS 11+ beef is the finest you'll find anywhere in the world.

Available in 5oz and 14oz,

it's treated with the utmost

respect to bring out its incredible



flavor and richness. It's a game-changer, trust me.

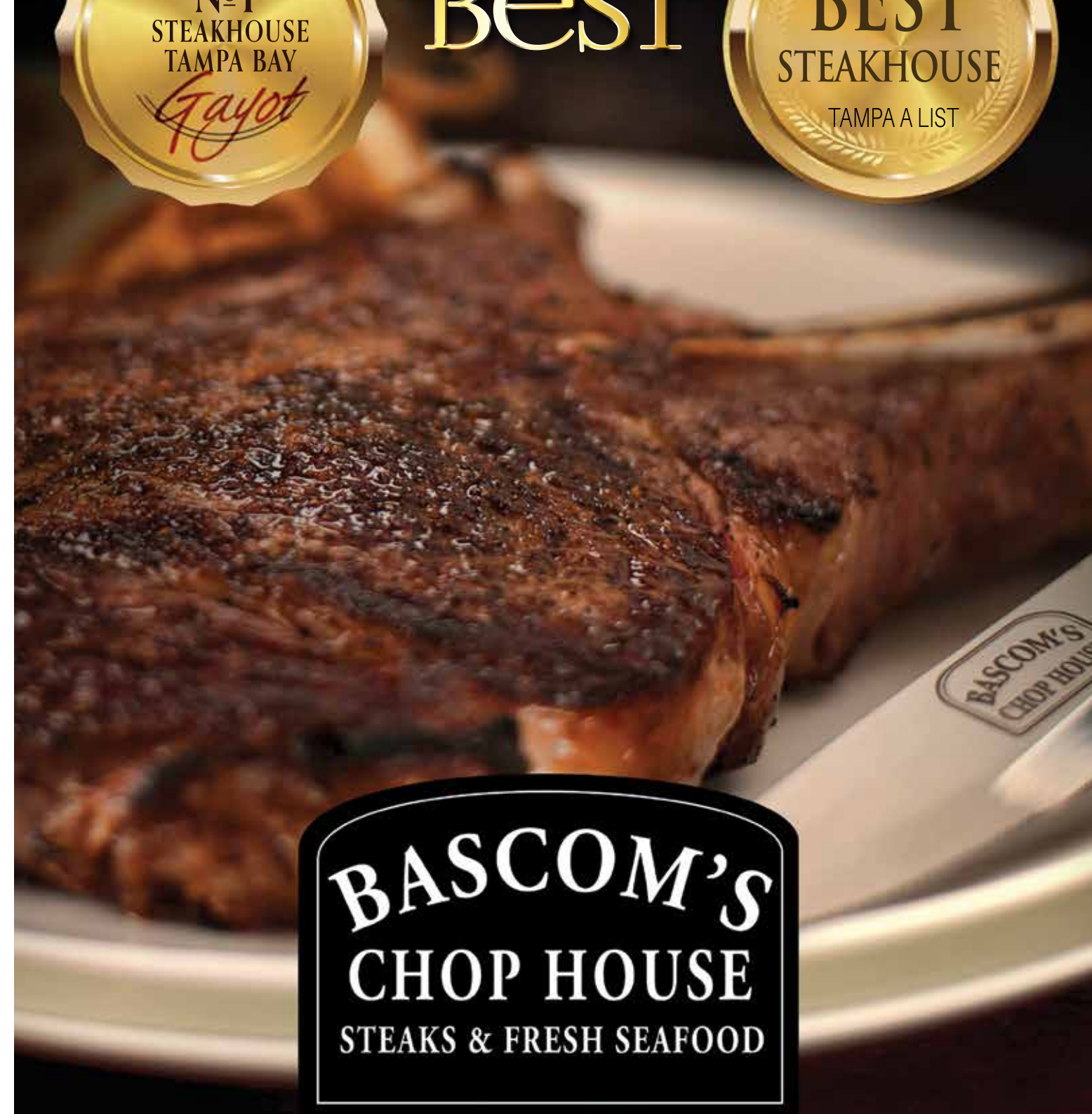
And the seafood? Oh, the seafood! The Pecan Crusted Grouper is a Florida delicacy you absolutely must try. Fresh from our warm waters, it's everything you love about grouper, with a nutty, crunchy crust that takes it to the next level. It's a true masterpiece of flavor and culinary skill.

You can find Bascom's Chop House at 3665 Ulmerton Rd. in Clearwater. Info: 727-573-3363; bascoms.com.

Bon Appetit!



VOTED BEST



BASCOM'S CHOP HOUSE

STEAKS & FRESH SEAFOOD

727-573-3363 | 3665 Ulmerton Rd. | Clearwater, FL 33762
bascoms.com

Happy Mouths

Literally translated, “Amuse Bouche” means “happy mouth.” Traditionally, these tiny bite-size treats are sent out by the chef to whet diners’ appetites before the main meal.

Here are 10 easy, palate-pleasing ideas for your next get-together.

1. Camembert Bonbons Thinly slice an apple or pear. Spread slices with softened blue cheese and sprinkle with chopped nut.

2. Goat Cheese & Pistachio Nuts Shape

a teaspoon of goat cheese into a ball and roll it in pistachio nuts.

3. Endive, Blue Cheese and Herbed Walnuts Fill endive

cups with blue cheese; sprinkle with walnuts.

4. Mini Crab Cakes Mix up your favorite crab cake recipe and make tiny, 1-inch cakes instead of larger ones; Top with a dollop of tartar sauce.



5. Vegetable and Fruit Canapés Skewer together an assortment of cheese, seedless grapes, cherry tomatoes and black olives. Drizzle with olive oil and a splash of balsamic vinegar.



6. Seared Scallops With Caviar Sear plump, juicy sea scallops in butter with a sprinkle of fresh thyme until they’re lightly browned; top with a 1/4 teaspoon of caviar.

7. Salmon and Capers Spread of pumpernickel bread with cheese. Cut into triangles and top with pieces of smoked salmon and capers.

8 Shrimp Shots Place a table

of cocktail sauce in small shot glass, top with fresh shrimp, dill and lemon zest. Voila!

9. Cucumber Seafood Rounds Cut a cucumber into 1” thick rounds. Use a teaspoon or a melon baller to scoop out most of the center (don’t hollow it out completely, you need a bottom to hold the filling). Fill each round with your favorite seafood salad.

10. Baguette With Goat Cheese, Roasted Peppers & Anchovies Slice a baguette into 1/4-inch thick slices; brush the slices with olive oil and grill the until crisp and golden brown. Spread each slice with goat cheese and top with thinly sliced prosciutto, roasted red pepper and anchovies.



Historic Cedar Key— A Taste of Old Florida

If you want to visit a piece of “Old Florida,” tell Siri to take you to the tiny enclave of Cedar Key.

Rich in small town flavor, this quaint, old-fashioned vacation town, with its lovely beaches, great fishing and lush natural preserves, is a haven for artists and writers who find inspiration from the unspoiled environment.

Located about 60 miles southwest of Gainesville and three

miles out into the Gulf of Mexico, it’s an island whose out of the way location helps keep it authentic and where time seems to stand still.

This is a place where houses and stores stand like herons perched on stilts above the Gulf and where the police greet you from spiffed up golf carts.

As one of the nation’s top sources of farm-raised clams, it’s easy to find tasty clam chowder here along with some of the best “Cracker Cuisine” in Florida.



Dining & Boutique

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THE Ivy House RESTAURANT & CATERING

WILLISTON, FL 352.528.5410

SAMPLE MENUS



appetizers

Crispy Calamari

hot cherry peppers, pesto aioli, marinara

Shrimp Al Ajillo

garlic, parsley, cayenne paprika oil

Mezze Plate

hummus, fried chickpeas, tzatziki, naan bread, tabouleh, crudite, marinated Greek olive medley

AZURA COASTAL KITCHEN & BAR

At Hotel Zamora

3701 Gulf Blvd St Pete Beach, FL

727-456-8660, thehotelzamora.com

mains

Chilean Sea Bass

tomato feta cous cous, haricot verts, olive tapenade, red pepper sauce

Steak

choice of 14 oz ribeye, 8 oz filet or 8 oz sirloin, crispy onion straws and choice of demi, truffle butter, wild mushroom

Chicken Saltimbocca

fresh mozzarella & sage stuffed chicken breast wrapped in prosciutto, spinach gnocchi, natural jus

Grilled Salmon

spinach & feta puff pastry, asparagus, heirloom beurre blanc

Wagyu Bolognese

short rib & beef blend, parmesan crisp, fried ricotta, rigatoni

Lobster A La Vodka Pasta

steamed tail, shrimp & scallop a la vodka, angel hair, fresh basil



SAMPLE MENUS



starters

Guacamole

choice of traditional, crispy bacon or lump crab

Tuna Tostada

macha salsa, red onion, sun dried chili

mayo, cilantro, avocado

Chile Relleno

shrimp, crab, poblano, chili, cream cheese, oaxaca cheese, chile de árbol sauce

LONA

Tampa Marriott Water Street

505 Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602

813-221-4900, lonatampa.com

main plates

Lobster Quesadillas

butter-poached lobster, flour tortilla, cilantro, chipotle aioli, red onion

Carne Asada Tacos

grilled skirt steak, melted oaxaca cheese, white onion, cilantro

Pablo Fajitas

tomato, onions, sweet peppers, crema, guacamole, pico de gallo, flour or corn tortillas

chef's specials

Grilled Steak Tampiqueña

strip steak, refried beans, rajas corn enchilada

Enchiladas Poblanas

chicken, queso fresco, house mole, crema, onion, sesame

Salmon a la Talla

guajillo chili adobo, avocado, coleslaw, corn pico de gallo, adobo mayo, charred lemon



SAMPLE MENUS



appetizers

Prince Edward Island Mussels

steamed, thai chili coconut milk

Fried Deviled Eggs

truffle aioli, bacon

Crispy Brussels Sprouts

chili honey sauce, bacon

from the sea

pesto shrimp

roasted red pepper pesto, garlic, charred tomato, onion, angel hair pasta

Lobster Mac & Cheese

tender maine lobster, cheese sauce, cavatappi

KATCH BISTRO

The Karol Hotel

2675 Umberton Rd Clearwater, FL 33762

727-273-7850, Thekarolhotel.com

Atlantic Seared Salmon

yellow tomato cream sauce, potato gnocchi, baby kale, beech mushroom, fried garlic

Cioppino

fresh crab, clams, mussels, shrimp, white fish, tomato-wine broth, aromatic herbs, garlic

from the land

Braised Short Rib

bordelaise, fried onion straws, whipped potato, seasonal vegetables

Pork Chop

mustard sauce, collard greens, rice, black eyed peas

Hot Honey Half Chicken

pan jus, collard greens, sweet potato, pecans

8 oz Grilled Filet

cherry bordelaise, whipped potato, seasonal vegetables



SAMPLE MENUS



small plates

Sautéed Mussels

confit garlic, shallot charred, scallion, smoked cherry tomatoes, sourdough crostini

Lump Crab Cake

spicy remoulade, avocado, charred lemon

Exotic Mushroom Flatbread

caramelized onions, mushrooms, arugula, garlic crema, truffle oil, balsamic reduction, parmesan, goat cheese

Fried Calamari

aji amarillo aioli, pickled chilis, grilled lemon

ANCHOR AND BRINE

Tampa Marriott Water Street

505 Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602

813-204-6388, anchorandbrine.com

large plates

Seared Salmon

corn puree, heirloom cherry tomatoes, edamame salsa, herb oil, sweet onion cream

Superfood Bowl

grilled quinoa, garbanzo beans, faro, kale, carrots, tomato, asparagus, lime cilantro coulis, garbanzo croutons

Pasta Pescatore

calamari, shrimp, mussels, lobster, garlic, linguine, pomodoro

Seared Grouper

coconut curry, spring vegetables, carrots, jasmine rice

Grilled Steak Frites

ny strip steak, roasted garlic butter, herbed fries

Chicken Milanese

panko bread crumbs, arugula, marinated heirloom cherry tomatoes, lemon, shaved parmesan



Let's Go!

Where to next?

After you've experienced all that Greater Tampa and the Gulf Coast have to offer, you might be ready to explore even more of our beautiful Sunshine State—or beyond.

In the mood for a romantic cruise to the Caribbean or Latin America? Port Tampa is your gateway to paradise. As the premier cruise hub for voyages to the Bahamas, Mexico, and the Caribbean, Port Tampa is home to several world-class cruise lines including *Margaritaville at Sea*, the *Margarita Sea Islander*, *Celebrity*, *Carnival*, *Royal Caribbean*, and more.

Prefer to fly? If cruising isn't fast enough for you, hop a flight from

St. Pete–Clearwater International Airport (PIE). With service from most major airlines, PIE offers quick and easy access to just about anywhere you want to go—and with far less hassle than bigger airports.

If you're looking to explore more of Southwest Florida or head down to the Florida Keys, make your way to Fort Myers or Marco Island and board the Key West Express. This jet-powered catamaran will whisk you to Key West in half the



time it takes to drive, and it's also a total blast!

So what are you waiting for? Pack your bags and grab your passport. Florida isn't just a fantastic destination—it's the perfect launchpad for countless other adventures.



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Grab Your Flip Flops & Salt Shaker—

Margaritaville at Sea Sets Sail from Port Tampa



like sailing away on Jimmy's namesake: the *Margaritaville at Sea Islander*.

As the Flagship for *Margaritaville at Sea*, the *Sea Islander* now sails out of Port Tampa with four, five, six and seven night cruises to beautiful, sun-soaked destinations.

As Jimmy Buffet once said, "Life is a journey that's not measured in miles or years, but in experiences."

And there is no experience quite

The journey really is the destination on this fully-reimagined ship which spans twelve passenger decks with spacious balconies, and boasts a

whopping 1,100 staterooms outfitted with gorgeous custom furnishings and signature bedding.

In all, there are more than 700 Breezy Balcony Staterooms, Grand Terrace Suites, luxurious Corner Suites, and ultra-exclusive Islander Suites.

The ship also features a soaring 14-story atrium with a unique nautical Margaritaville flip flop, as well as a lively atrium bar outfitted with three awe-inspiring multi-story floating margarita glass chandeliers. But that's just the beginning.

The entertainment-packed *Sea Islander* cruise is guaranteed to immerse you in a true "Margaritaville State of Mind," starting with the "Stars On

The Water Theater." This amazing three-story entertainment venue raises the curtain on an incredible lineup of all-new productions: from the original, boots-stompin' "Conky Tonkin' at Sea," to the electric energy of "Caribbean Heat Remix," it's a double-dose of jaw-dropping entertainment that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

But that's just the beginning.

Exclusive innovations like the first three-story poolside LandShark Bar at Sea, Margaritaville-inspired corn hole, Paradise Pickle ball, and a challenging mini-golf course are flanked by new family friendly spaces like the Caribbean Amphibian Splash and Slide.

Hungry? Flip flop on over to signature

eateries like Cheeseburger in Paradise, JWB Prime Steakhouse, Rita's Taco House, Frank and Lola's Pizzeria, or the Margaritaville Coffee Shop.

With comfortable accommodations for up to 2,650 adventure-seekers, the *Margaritaville at Sea's* four night trip departs from Port Tampa Bay and includes two days at sea with a stop in Cozumel and Progreso, Mexico.

The ship's five night excursions from Tampa include a few different itineraries including ports in Key West, Nassau, Freeport, Cozumel, and Progreso.



There are also seven night sails with even more Ports of Call, as well.

And here's the thing: the really great thing about sailing out of Tampa is that the Port's cruise terminals are easy to navigate and provide a variety of unique and interesting activities just steps from the *Margaritaville at Sea Islander*.

For additional news, updates, and exclusive access to preview incentives on the *Margaritaville at Sea Islander*, visit and book now at MargaritavilleAtSea.com.

BTW: Don't forget your salt shaker!

PURE
ON THE WATER
CROWD-FREE
AUTHENTIC
DIAL IT DOWN
DELICIOUS
FLORIDA

A short drive along the coast an authentic Southwest Florida experience awaits. Spend a morning at our beaches, or on the water fishing, paddleboarding, or cruising the harbor. Then browse the galleries and boutiques of downtown Punta Gorda, and enjoy fresh-caught seafood and watch a legendary sunset at one of many waterfront restaurants. No crowds. No rush. Just pure Florida.

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Activities**

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Artists**

**95,000
Attendees**

**Food &
Beverage**

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FEBRUARY 5-7, 2027
DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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artsy weekend trip!*

Turn On The Magic!

Key West Holiday Fest Flips the Switch

If a balmy tropical get-away with lots of enchanting island festivities is your idea of a fun way to spend the holidays, then Key West is your place in the sun!

As one of America's top tropical holiday destinations, Key West is a small town that's big on holiday magic. And nothing embraces its holiday spirit more than **Key West Holiday Fest**.

This annual month-long celebration kicks off on Wednesday, November 25 at 5 pm with the **"Lighting of the Bight."**

Every night, starting on Thanksgiving Eve, Key West's Historic Harbor Walk hits the switch for a breathtaking display of holiday lights. This spectacular **"Harbor Walk of Lights"** stays lit nightly through New Year's Eve, stretching along

the Key West Historic Seaport and Bight Marina.

The entire harbor area, including a Fishing Buoy Tree, fresh pine Nautical Christmas Tree and the original Key West Lobster Trap Tree, shimmer and shine with hundreds of thousands of festive holiday lights backdropped by lively holiday tunes.

Things really hit high gear on Saturday, November 28, when The Studios of Key West stages its annual **Holiday Artisan Market**. With over 20 artisans showcasing locally produced items, it's the perfect place to pick up a unique, handcrafted gift. Takes place from 10 am – 2 pm at 533 Eaton St.

For some extraordinary holiday magic,



Lighting the Bight, Key West, Photo: Carol Tellesco

grab tickets for the original production of **Nutcracker Key West**. This unique island interpretation of the fabled holiday ballet always sells out and is unlike any other Nutcracker Ballet you may have already seen.

On stage from Thursday, December 3 through Monday, December 7 at the celebrated Tennessee Williams Theater,

5901 College Rd (nutcrackerkeywest.com). It's one show you don't want to miss!

On Friday, December 4, **Holiday Village & Belighted Bike Ride** rolls into town. The magical Holiday Village brims with lots of fun rides, games, crafts, food vendors, local performances, Santa photo ops, and more. Takes place from 5 – 9 pm at Truman Waterfront Park, 21 Quay Rd

On Saturday, December 5, Key West's **Hometown Holiday Parade** hits the road for even more holiday cheer. The colorful cavalcade starts at 7 pm from the intersection of Truman Ave and White St. For a great view, perch yourself at the Oldest House Museum around 6

pm (322 Duval St) for a festive **Holiday Porch Party** and ringside view of all the action.

Also not-to-be-missed: Key West's famous **Schooner Wharf Lighted Boat Parade**, which lights up the entire Historic Seaport on Saturday, December 12 starting at 8 pm.

During the entire month of December, there will be lots of other merry events, as well, including the oh-so festive **Key West Historic Inn Tours** (Dates TBD); and the annual **Key West Holiday Home Tours** (OIRF.org) which take place on Tuesday, December 29 and on Wednesday,

December 30.

Topping it all off is a plethora of seasonal artisan markets and bazaars; art openings and theatrical performances; and multiple New Year's Eve "Drops" that spoof NYC's annual Times Square Ball Drop.

Such a blast! For more info hit up keywestholidayfest.com.



Schooner Wharf Lighted Boat Parade, Key West, Photo: Carol Tellesco



Deck the halls at the Inns

On two enchanted Friday nights, December 11th and 18th, take part in the spectacular historic Inns Tours and navigate yourself through a holiday universe. These self aided tours feature some of Key West's most charming Inns and Guesthouses all decorated for the season. Whether you bike, walk or ride the trolley to each destination, these tours will certainly transport you to a more exciting time. Visit keywestholidayfest.com for more details.

The Florida Keys
Key West
Close To Perfect - Far From Normal



'Tis the season, and once again we're lighting up old town with a dazzling display of holiday decorations, twinkling light, food and family fun. It all begins with the spectacular lighting of the Harbor Walk of Lights on November 25th and continues with the Historic Inn Tours, the celebrated Lighted Boat Parade and so many more holiday events.

For the complete holiday event schedule, visit keywestholidayfest.com

The Florida Keys
Key West
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KEY WEST 2027
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27
SUNDAY JANUARY 31, 2027



TICKETS ON SALE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL



ART CREATED BY HUMBERTO CASTRO

"OCEAN EYES"

STUDIO FINE CUBAN ART TO COLLECT

