



Dear Business Owners and Restaurants:

Preparations for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Sandestin Gumbo Festival are underway. The Gumbo Cook-off will take place February 15<sup>th</sup> from 12-4pm. In addition to Saturday's Gumbo Cook-off, we'll be featuring a variety of other events throughout the weekend.

- Now, we invite **you** to join in the fun! By becoming a participant in the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Sandestin Gumbo Festival, your business will receive free advertising and publicity, worth thousands of dollars, January through February including:
  - Your business's name listed in print and radio ads, flyers, posters and press releases.
  - An exclusive feature in the Taster's Guide, which will be distributed to each event guest and will include a brief description and highlight noted by each participant.
  - Entered to win \$1,000 worth of free advertising from Wave 102.1FM to be used over the next year.
  - Free advertising from Community Broadcasters. Possible live tastings of gumbo dishes and bloody Mary's on air prior to the event.

**2020**

- We are excited to be giving each participant 2 tickets to The Sandestin Wine Festival's Friday Grand Tasting on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020!
- Back this year is the Best Bloody Mary's at The Beach Competition! Vodka will be sponsored by Bombora Vodka and you provide all the fixings! Compete with some of the finest bars and restaurants on the Panhandle! You will be entered to win the "2020 Best Bloody Mary at The Beach" and the festival attendees will vote their favorite!
- Feel free to participate in one or both competitions!
- **NEW!** Each Gumbo Participant will be given a \$450 stipend towards making their gumbo.

This competition is open to both restaurant and non-restaurant participants. Categories will be broken down as follows:

<u>Participated 1-5 years:</u>	<u>Participated 5+ years:</u>	<u>People's Choice</u>	<u>Best Display:</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place		
Honorable Mention	Honorable Mention		

<u>Non-Restaurant</u>	<u>2020 Best Bloody Mary at The Beach</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> place	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place

**Along with the winning title, Winners will also receive a plaque!**

Judging will be made by a panel of select food critics and local celebrities. Each participant's identity is concealed to ensure judging is strictly based on the quality of Gumbo presented. The awards ceremony will be held at approximately 4:15 pm and will recognize all participants as well as the winners.

We are proud to announce the Sandestin Gumbo Festival will be partnering with Sandestin Foundation for Kids this year. Proceeds earned will go to benefit Sandestin Foundation Kids, whose mission is reaching out to help children in need in our community. The Sandestin Foundation for Kids is a critical part of this event as their team assists in the coordination of our volunteers who help in every facet of the day's needs.

Please plan to attend a meeting with all participants and organizers to discuss event details, choose booth locations and distribute compensation tickets and parking vouchers. The Participant meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM** upstairs at Marlin Grill in The Village of Baytowne Wharf.

Enclosed is an information sheet that should answer most of your questions, plus a commitment and information form for the taster's guide.

For your business to be included within ALL the advertising collateral, we ask that commitment forms be sent to us by **Friday, January 15th, 2020**. It is imperative that we receive your information by this deadline to ensure maximum marketing exposure for this great community event! Late entries will be accepted; however, we cannot guarantee full advertising opportunity. **NOTE: Booth locations will be chosen in the order in which your commitment forms and checks were received.**

Please mail or email Commitment Forms to:

Baytowne Wharf Neighborhood Association  
Attention: Leighann Elliott  
147 Tupelo Courtyard  
Miramar Beach, FL 32550

Contact: Leighann Elliott  
E-mail: [leighann@baytownewharf.com](mailto:leighann@baytownewharf.com)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Leighann Elliott at 850-267-8110 or [leighann@baytownewharf.com](mailto:leighann@baytownewharf.com). We certainly appreciate everyone's continued involvement and support of this event. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

## **2020 PARTICIPANT Q&A**

- 1. How much Gumbo or Bloody Mary mix/fixings should I prepare?** *We are planning to accommodate 2,000 attendees for the 2020 event. **For Gumbo Participants** - Please base the amount of gumbo you bring on at least that number of people plus tastings for at least 2 rounds of judging. (We suggest 40-50 gallons.) Participants will have an opportunity to sell Gumbo and Bloody Mary's from 4pm – 5pm after the event. This will be in addition to the quantities requested for the event. All transactions are your responsibility.*
- 2. What supplies will be provided for you?** *The Village of Baytowne Wharf will provide spoons, napkins, and sample sized bowls (4 oz.) for the gumbo, and sample sized cups (6 oz.) and vodka for the bloody Mary's, tables, linen, restaurant signs, trashcans, power source, parking, and security. Use of propane is discouraged, but allowable in the right location with propane placed outside of footprint of tent.*

**3. What must participants provide?**

*Each participant is required to:*

- *Reserve their table with an application*
- *GUMBO PARTICIPANTS: Provide gumbo. You will also need a fire extinguisher, chafing dishes, sternos, extension cords, serving utensils, and staff to serve and operate your booth.*
- *BLOODY MARY PARTICIPANTS: Provide bloody mary mix + fixings and a staff to serve and operate your booth.*

**4. What type of promotion will be used for the event?**

*Participants will receive advertising in our local area through radio, billboard, magazine, and newspaper ads, as well as a full publicity campaign. Participants may also be eligible for live on-air tastings the week prior to the event.*

**5. Can we bring promotional material to the event?**

*Yes, bring balloons, koozies, T-shirts, menus, etc. to give away at the tasting. This is a terrific opportunity for your business staff to meet potential customers and thank current ones!*

**6. What are the criteria to be included in the Championship?**

***For Gumbo Participants:** Your Gumbo **MUST BE** homemade. You CANNOT out-source the preparation of your gumbo to another restaurant/business; doing so will be grounds for disqualification. Please note there are a variety of gumbos. It does not necessarily have to be seafood gumbo. All gumbo must be prepared prior to arrival. Reheating of gumbo is the only day of food preparation allowed. Any other food preparation could possibly disqualify you from award consideration.*

*If you have any questions about the criteria, please contact us for verification.*

**7. What happens if I run out of gumbo?**

*If you run out of gumbo prior to the end of the event it will affect your total score that has been determined by the judges. It is imperative that you make enough gumbo to last from 12 pm – 4 pm to ensure that the “People’s Choice” is chosen fairly. There will be a 3.5 point deduction for every half hour prior to the end of the event if you run out of gumbo.*

**8. How do we qualify for the “Best Display” award?**

*We will provide a 10X10 tent for your booth space. Choose an interesting idea for your booth and decorate and dress up in the “Mardi Gras” spirit. In order to keep up the appearance of the Village, you are **not allowed** to use nails, screws, staple guns, tape, etc to mount anything on the actual building structure or tent. Doing so will disqualify your restaurant for this award.*

**9. What time can we arrive to set-up for the event?**

*You may arrive at 8AM the day of the event; NO set-up will be permitted prior to this time. A load-in schedule will be established at the Participant’s Meeting.*

**10. What time should we be ready to serve Gumbo and Bloody Mary’s?**

*At the participant meeting, we will give you your designated tasting time. It is your responsibility to have your gumbo ready 30 minutes prior to the tasting time.*

**11. Where do we unload our supplies and park?**

*All participants will be permitted to unload their vehicle in front of their booth. Absolutely no unloading AFTER 10AM*

**12. Parking**

*Your business will be permitted to park **two (2)** vehicles in Marina parking lot. Parking passes will be given out at the Participants Meeting.*

## 2020 PARTICIPANT COMMITMENT FORM

(PLEASE MAIL OR E-MAIL THIS FORM AND RETURN BY FRIDAY January 31, 2020 TO MAXIMIZE YOUR AD OPPORTUNITIES.)

Participant Name:	_____
Contact Name:	_____
What will you be serving:	<input type="checkbox"/> Gumbo <input type="checkbox"/> Bloody Mary <input type="checkbox"/> Both
Mailing Address:	_____
<i>(If different from Business Address)</i>	_____
	_____
Primary Contact Phone No.:	_____
Business Phone/Other Phone:	_____
Fax Number:	_____
E-mail Address:	_____
Best Time to Contact:	<input type="checkbox"/> Morning <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon <input type="checkbox"/> Evening
Brief Description of Business:	_____
<i>(to be included on Taster's Guide)</i>	_____
<i>2-3 full sentences</i>	_____
Special Requests:	_____
	_____
Please mail or e-mail this for to:	Baytowne Wharf Neighborhood Association ATTN: Leighann Elliott 147 Tupelo Courtyard Miramar Beach, Florida 32550

**For questions, please contact Leighann Elliott, Village of Baytowne Wharf Events Manager, at [Leighann@baytownewharf.com](mailto:Leighann@baytownewharf.com)**