



What's COOKING

HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday through Thursday
11:00 am to 10:00 pm

Friday
11:00 am to 11:00 pm

Saturday
3:30 pm to 11:00 pm

Sunday
3:00 pm to 10:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE

Open at 3:30 pm
Names taken until 7:00 pm
No reservations
(Parties seated in order of arrival)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Closed - Merry Christmas!

NEW YEAR'S EVE

3:30 pm to the New Year!
No reservations
(Parties seated in order of arrival)

NEW YEAR'S DAY

3:00 pm to 10:00 pm

GIFT CARD SPECIAL

Buy \$100, Get \$25 Free

OPEN NOVEMBER 25 – DECEMBER 24



The most popular gift special in Houston is back! Buy \$100 in Gift Cards and get \$25 FREE! This special begins Friday Nov. 25 at 9 am, and runs through Dec. 24 at 9 pm. You can buy the gift cards in person at Taste of Texas at our Christmas Store just inside the front doors, or shop online at www.tasteoftexas.com and have the gift cards shipped FedEx either to you or directly to your recipient with a gift message.



CHRISTMAS DÉCOR Returns to Taste of Texas

Welcome to our Winter Wonderland! Months of planning and an incredible work crew have filled the Taste of Texas with Christmas spirit! Christmas Decorations at the Taste include thousands of twinkling lights, giant nutcrackers, snow villages, and framed one of a kind Christmas antiques and collectables. We have built a festive winter forest of green trees and nutcrackers, blanketed the walkways with garland and red bows, and wrapped our trees along the driveway with thousands of white lights to create a truly magical entry to the Taste of Texas.

The wagon barn is fully decorated and houses 2 antique sleighs which are the perfect setting for your annual family Christmas Photo. Just bring your family and your camera to the wagon barn day or night for a treasured moment captured for the ages.

Christmas at the Taste of Texas is always an extra special time for us and the many guests

that come to visit. So whether you're coming with friends or family to enjoy our exceptional Certified Angus Beef, or our famous cinnamon coffee in front of the crackling fireplace, we look forward to your visit! Merry Christmas to all!



FAMILY PHOTOS

Wagon Barn: Our new wagon barn is the perfect spot for your annual Christmas photo. Decorations are up NOW and both sleighs are in the barn so bring your family and your own camera.

Santa Visits: Santa Claus will be at the fireplace Monday and Tuesday nights December 5 & 6, 12 & 13 and 19 & 20 from 5:30-7:30 for a great photo opportunity for your family. Bring your own camera and capture the perfect Christmas memory for your family.

TASTEOFTEXAS.COM

Corporate Gifts they will never forget. Give the gift of steak this Holiday Season at www.tasteoftexas.com. It's as easy as SHOP-CLICK-DONE!! We offer Filets, Strips, T-Bones, Rib Eyes and more. For your convenience, all steaks are shipped "quick frozen" with dry ice by FedEx 2nd day shipping. We include handling instructions and a tin of Taste of Texas Steak Seasoning. Our grilling instructions video is online on our website. Other featured items are shrimp for grilling, quail bites, as well as herb and blue cheese butters to make your next grilling dinner one to remember. We will ship on



Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays with our last SHIPPING DATE Tuesday December 20, 2011.

OUR CHRISTMAS WISH FOR YOU

To know the love of God and to experience HIS faithfulness this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.



FAMILY NEWS

Lisa and Chris are delighted with their baby girl, Hannah Leigh, who will turn one year old this December 22. Hannah comes to the Taste with Lisa everyday, and is always excited to see everyone. Chris loves his job at Shell as a consultant for the downstream businesses. He continues to enjoy banjo playing and cycling when he's not busy with Hannah. Lisa LOVES being a mom, is enjoying and learning a lot from her new business, "Baby Boot Camp", works at the restaurant in the afternoons, and is still working to open a safe house for teenage victims of sex trafficking in Houston. Lisa and Chris treasure their church, Grace Bible, and thank their Lord and Savior for the blessings in their lives.

The newlyweds, Kristin & Corbin, are happy living in Charlottesville, Virginia. Corbin is attending Law School at UVA and Kristin has worked hard restoring a beautiful home near the Law School. She is studying the GMAT for her MBA.

Claudine stays very busy with Campbell (6), Hudson (4), & Reagan (2) and her photography business. She has a beautiful new home in Briar Grove Park and is dating a wonderful man whom we all love. God is faithful!

Edd turned 60 in May and Nina surprised him with a great party and a year of "Bucket List Trips" with things he has always wanted to do including biking, scuba diving, traveling to air shows, golf lessons, and a train ride with the grandchildren. He recently cycled the 160 mile Wounded EOD (Explosive Ordinance Device) Warrior Ride



from Los Angeles to San Diego. At the finish line Edd ran into former Taste staff member Steve Atkinson who waited tables for us in the late 1980's. Steve is the lead news anchor for the ABC affiliate in San Diego, CA. He volunteered to be the MC of the event for the EOD fund and

has done some great stories on this team of exceptional heroes. Steve has 2 college age children and a beautiful wife.

The EOD teams are tasked with disarming the IED's placed by our enemies in the War on Terror. By the nature of their job, their injuries are severe. The funds raised go to assist their families as their warriors recover and transition to a new lifestyle. If you would like to donate to the Wounded Warrior EOD Fund – please visit their website www.woundedEODwarrior.org or mail a check to Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation 725 Jackson St., Suite 216 Fredericks VA 22401.

Nina stays busy and is loving life. The days fly by with her 30th year of daily school tours for area 4th grade students at the Taste. She is blessed with the joy of staying busy with Bible Study Fellowship, Second Baptist Church, and being "Honey" to 4 beautiful grandchildren.



Baby Boot Camp

After having Hannah last December, Lisa was looking for a way to get back in shape without having to find a baby sitter for Hannah. Mom and baby Hannah started going to Baby Boot Camp classes in April. It was great to be around other young moms and to regain fitness. Baby Boot Camp is an hour long work out for the moms with the babies in the stroller. When Baby Boot Camp came up for sale in August, Lisa



bought the franchise. She has just started classes in Memorial Park in addition to the classes at Terry Hershey Park and Memorial Drive United Methodist Church. For a full schedule and more information, please visit www.BabyBootCamp.com.

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

1. Which gospel(s) speak of the events of Christ's birth?
2. Who kept time with the Little Drummer Boy?
3. Who first recorded "Here Comes Santa Claus?"
4. What word does the conductor punch onto the ticket on the Polar Express?
5. What business did Ebenezer Scrooge own?
6. Who was Scrooge's deceased partner?
7. Where did Charles Dickens get the idea of the main character's name Scrooge?

Answers: 1. Matthew & Luke 2. The ox and the lamb 3. Gene Autry 4. Believe 5. Money lender 6. Jacob Marley 7. Name on a gravestone.



Christmas in Houston

We love our city and the cultural and artistic opportunities it offers. Along with visiting the Taste of Texas and its splendid Christmas setting, here are some Christmas favorites and a new production for you to consider this season.

The Nutcracker - November 25 – December 27 A Houston Ballet tradition delighting young and old in this classic and beautifully performed ballet at the Wortham Theater. Journey through the Land of Sweets and Kingdom of Snow as this production ushers in the holiday season. www.houstonballet.org

A Christmas Carol - November 18 – December 27 Another Houston seasonal favorite retells Dickens's story of Ebenezer Scrooge's visits by ghosts of Christmas past. The sets of old London are transformed for the audience by the Alley Theater. No Bah Humbug! here. The Alley is partnering with non-profit organizations for select performances. They seek to generate in-kind donations with several worthwhile agencies and reward patrons with affordable tickets. Visit www.alleytheatre.org for more information on these special offers and opportunities for giving.

White Christmas - December 6 – December 18 The all-time number-one pop song and most-recorded tune in history is the inspiration of this family musical. Everyone loves Irving Berlin's best songs (Blue Skies, I Love a Piano, Count Your Blessings). This heartwarmer about two war veterans turned vaudeville hoofers and the song bird sisters they fall for, is yuletide entertainment from Theater Under the Stars for all ages over the holidays ... come dream a little of a White Christmas. www.tuts.com



Chuck Heaton Marks 30 Years At Taste Of Texas

Chuck began working as a waiter at the Taste of Texas when he was 20 years old and has truly blessed us for the past 30 years. If you are a long time customer or new to the restaurant, you have witnessed Chuck's keen sense for details and oversight as General Manager. The staff describes him as fair, very calm under pressure, able to handle multi issues at once, and has the respect of all. His humor and wit are matchless.

Chuck moved to Houston from West Virginia via Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He had been working as a valet at one of the most popular nightclubs in Ft. Lauderdale and he has stories! He also was working 3 jobs at the time...one was brass polisher for TGI Fridays at night. Chuck has been a huge part of our growth and success. His work ethic is admirable and we can't say enough about his tireless effort to ensure all systems are working and perfect at the Taste.

Chuck married his wife Laura in the old Taste of Texas building in the banquet room! He has 3 great children – Jennifer, a student at the University of Texas, Christopher, who is working with us at the restaurant, and Joseph who joined his sister this year at UT in Austin. Congratulations Chuck! We love you.

Congratulations Lance Berkman!

The first time Lance came to the Taste of Texas, he was a college student playing baseball at Rice University. In the years that passed he played in the College World Series, was awarded National College Player of the year, graduated, played Professional Baseball, married Cara, and was blessed to become the father of four girls. His career highlights are remarkable, but nothing could top this post season as Lance led the St. Louis Cardinals to win the World Series. What you may not know about Lance is what an honorable, humble, and faithful man of God he is. When we were young, we looked up to sports heroes in all of the aspects of life. In the last 20+ years we've seen more headlines of personal failures than we have wanted. Lance Berkman is the kind of man you would want your son or daughter to look up to – that's the mark of a real Champion.



STAFF UPDATES

Wedding Bells are ringing all around the restaurant. Three of our couples met here at the Taste working together - Server **Sara Correa** will marry **Jason Griffs** January 20th. Bartender and Server **Christian Jackson** wed **Kristin Tidden** October 15th. **Mandy Trieu and Greg Whitaker** also married October 15th. Other waitstaff that are newlyweds are **Mayra Aguilar** married July 9th and **Michael Fontaine** was married November 12th. Our sincere congratulations and blessings to you all.

Long time server, **Aris Reed**, graduated from Physical Therapy Assistant Program and will begin working in his field of study soon. Way to go **Aris**! Other proud graduates are **Nicole Lyons, Tyler Scott** and **Bob Hutchins** – all graduating in December.

Robbie Robertson and his wife dedicated their precious son in a Parent Commitment Ceremony on September 18.

David Combs, Amanda Butler and **Steve Jones** are owners/operators of Cardinals Vending. If you need a vending machine – they have it. Go to cardinalsvending@hotmail.com

MEET AN IDITAROD MUSHER IN ALASKA

During one of the 'Bucket List' trips this summer Nina and Edd had an opportunity to visit Alaska again. One of the highlights was a tour of Sun Dog Ken-



nels with owner, Jerry Sousa. This is Iditarod country and sled dog capital of the world! Jerry is a top 20 Iditarod musher finishing the grueling race 9 of the last 10 years in what is described as the "last great race on earth". The visit included riding on a sled pulled by 12 dogs and hearing descriptions of the daily schedule of the 1150 mile race through the wilderness. Next trip you plan to Alaska – put Talkeetna and Sun Dog Kennel on your travel plans. The Iditarod is March 3, 2012. www.sundogkennel.com and www.iditarod.com



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News From Kitchen And Winelist: Visiting Chef Fritz Gitschner

Chef Fritz Gitschner is one of 64 Master Certified Chefs in America, and has been a close friend to the Taste of Texas for years. This fall Fritz spent about 4 weeks in the kitchen with Senior Manager Stephen Edelstein and Chef Lisa Blackard reviewing all recipes, presentations, and procedures. The results are remarkable. Our entire staff enjoyed working with a true Master Chef. Thank you Chef Fritz for being part of the Taste of Texas.

All You Need to Know About Our Wine List is the First 5 Pages

Wine lists can sometimes be overwhelming – but even our extensive wine list can now be summarized in the first 5 pages!

Page 1: *Wine Spectator Award of Excellence* – every year from 1995 through 2011.

Page 2: *Our Price - Their Price* – A comparison of our prices to others around town. Yes, we do name the other restaurants. We offer value; comparison is the key.

Page 3: *Seasonal Values* – 9 great wines that we have bought at the right price and can offer at exceptional value for your meal.

Page 4: *Premium Wines By the Glass and 3 Wine Flights* – 20 great wines by the glass that we also can offer a tasting to help you in your selection.

Page 5: *Wines at a Glance* – 34 great reds across the price spectrum that are top sellers.

There are 11 additional pages of 375 selections and over 4000 bottles in our cellar for you to peruse; but the first 5 pages tell a great story!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Please check our website for details and register online at www.tasteoftexas.com

WWW.TASTE OF TEXAS.COM

November 25

Our holiday gift card special begins Friday, November 25 (the day after Thanksgiving) for early Christmas shopping. Through December 24th when you purchase \$100 in gift cards, we will give an extra \$25 gift card absolutely free!

January 21

Taste of Texas Grilling School: Join Chef Lisa for our popular Grilling School on Saturday January 21 at 9:00 am -11:30 am. Take an in-depth look at the components of a great steak: Grading, Aging, Cut

and Preparation. This is a great Christmas gift for the steak lovers and chefs on your list. Purchase online at www.tasteoftexas.com. Cost is \$65 per person and includes Steak lunch.

February 4 & March 24

Adult Texas History Presentation: Nina will share fascinating facts and stories of Texas History and Texas heroes. Join Nina for an informative presentation drawn from first hand accounts. Lunch is included. 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Sign up now online. Cost is \$20 per person.

*All proceeds from the Adult History Presentations & Grilling Schools benefit the Taste of Texas scholarship fund for our wait staff.