



# What's COOKING

## HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday through Thursday  
11:00 am to 10 pm

Friday  
11:00 am to 11:00 pm

Saturday  
3:30 pm to 11:00 pm

Sunday  
3:00 pm to 10 pm

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Open at 11:00 am  
Names taken until 7:00 pm  
No reservations  
(Parties seated in order of arrival)

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Closed

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

11:00 am to the New Year!  
No reservations  
(Parties seated in order of arrival)

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

3:30 pm to 11:00 pm

## GIFT CARD SPECIAL

Buy \$100, Get \$25 Free

### OPEN NOVEMBER 26 – DECEMBER 24

The famous Taste of Texas Gift Card Special begins Friday, November 26 (the day after Thanksgiving) when our gift store opens for Christmas shopping.

Through December 24th when you purchase \$100 in gift cards, we will give an extra \$25 gift card absolutely free! Our gift cards are available in a range of denominations; they never expire and carry no penalty. The gift store will be open with unique gift-giving ideas for Christmas shopping. All of our merchandise, steaks and gift cards can be purchased online at [www.tasteoftexas.com](http://www.tasteoftexas.com). Come shop with us!



## CHRISTMAS at the Taste of Texas!



Thirty years ago the old Town & Country Village sponsored a Christmas decorating contest. Nina really wanted to win the prize of a trip to London for the family. She enlisted the children and the parents and went to work set on winning. Everything looked promising for her to take home 'the prize' until Edd was asked to be the judge! He removed the Taste of Texas from the judging. The customers loved the Christmas décor inside and out and the Taste of Texas Christmas decorating tradition was born.

These days in "Amazing Race" style, the staff goes to work before dawn with precision and care. There is much laughter and holiday banter as the staff is armed with power tools (we didn't have those in the early days!) and ladders to transform the restaurant in 10 short hours. As they get closer to completion the entire ambience of the restaurant becomes a Christmas wonderland with thousands of twinkling lights, towering nutcrackers and trees, miles of garland and a

host of Santas. Our snowy villages, antique skis and sleds along with our Christmas art delights our customers of all ages.

Once again we look forward to welcoming friends, families and our corporate celebrations this holiday season. **Our Christmas décor makes beautiful and memorable moments for your gatherings. Cameras are a must for that treasured holiday photo.**



### SANTA'S VISITS

It isn't Christmas at the Taste of Texas without Santa! Come, visit and enjoy a complimentary picture with Santa during the holidays in our beautiful new Wagon Barn. Santa will be at the Taste of Texas Monday & Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30 pm on December 6 & 7, 13 & 14 and 20 & 21.

## Give the Gift of Steak this Holiday Season

Need a gift for the hard-to-shop-for people on your list? [Tasteoftexas.com](http://Tasteoftexas.com) makes it easy with outstanding Certified Angus Beef steaks shipped right to their door. We offer Center Cut Complete Trim Filets, New York Strips, Texas T-Bones, Porterhouses and our mouth-watering Tenderloins – perfect for the holidays!



Our Texas Gift Boxes have something for everyone with an assortment of our most popular cuts. Send the Texas Triple Play and thrill them with two 6 oz filets, two 20 oz T-Bones, and two 16 oz Strips for \$159.95!

We also offer our Texas Quail Bites, Jalapeño Stuffed Shrimp and an assortment of steak butters to make your gift unforgettable.

Need help with a large order or corporate gifts? We're here to make your life simple. Please contact [lisablackard@tasteoftexas.com](mailto:lisablackard@tasteoftexas.com) for special packages and pricing.

**It's as easy as shop, click, done at [tasteoftexas.com](http://tasteoftexas.com)!**



## FAMILY NEWS

We are constantly amazed at God's grace and mercy in our lives on a daily basis. Since our son's death in February, we have experienced God's love in a mighty way. Life is sweet with Claudine and our precious grandchildren living with us. She is an amazing mom and steady as a rock! She is involved with her portrait photography and is incredibly talented. Campbell (5) loves PreK and stays busy with gymnastics, 'hip hop' and has his yellow belt in Karate. He is playing soccer and his 'Biggee' (Edd) is coaching. Hudson (3) is enjoying Preschool and loves 'hip hop.' He is Biggee's fishing buddy at the ranch. Baby Reagan (17 mos) is adorable and is quite the charmer. She belly laughs just looking at her brothers. The children are spending time at the restaurant, so say hello when you see them!

Lisa Hendee Blackard and her wonderful husband Chris are expecting their first baby in late January. It's a Girl! Isn't baby Hannah beautiful?

Kristin Ann Hendee will marry her long time sweetheart, Corbin Blackford, on March 19, 2011 in Houston! Corbin will begin the University of Virginia Law School in the Fall. We are so excited to see what great things God has planned for this special couple.



## Christmas Portraits at the Taste

Our daughter-in-law, Claudine Hendee will be offering professional photography services on select dates during the holidays in our new Wagon Barn beautifully decorated for Christmas and featuring our Antique Sleigh. We think this is the perfect setting to create memorable holiday photos. Claudine has over 10 years experience as a professional photographer and loves doing portraits of individuals and families. She will be offering a wonderful Christmas Photo Package that includes a sitting and prints for \$99.95. The package includes 1-8x10, 2-5x7s, 12-4x6s. Claudine will be taking your portraits by appointment only for the following dates between 1PM to 5PM:

- Sunday, November 28
- Thursday, December 2nd
- Friday, December 3rd
- Saturday, December 4th
- Sunday, December 5th
- Saturday, December 11th
- Sunday, December 12th

\* To schedule your holiday portrait appointment contact Mary Whittington at the restaurant or email [mary@tasteoftexas.com](mailto:mary@tasteoftexas.com).

## New Wagon Barn at Taste of Texas

We are so excited about our new Wagon Barn located just out the front doors of the restaurant. Seth Adams, owner of Brown Dog Company, hand cut, distressed and stained each piece of the pergola, and we were thrilled with his work. Nice job, Seth! Carl Shiro, owner of Western Brick, did the beautiful stonework.

Come by and see the beautiful antique sleighs we have out during the Christmas season or our beautiful antique buckboard wagon during the rest of the year. It is a great spot for a photo, to wait for your table or to stroll through after your meal.

Santa might even make an appearance in the Wagon Barn this year!

### BROWN DOG COMPANY ARBORS AND PERGOLAS

Seth Adams | 713.869.5373 | [www.browndogcompany.com](http://www.browndogcompany.com)

## CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

1. What were the first artificial Christmas trees made from?
2. What is the name of Rudolph's dad?
3. Why was the Grinch so nasty? Because he had a:
4. What gift did Caspar bring?
5. What did the Little Drummer Boy give to the Christ Child?
6. In A Charlie Brown Christmas, who plays the dusty innkeeper in the Christmas play?
7. In Frosty the Snowman, who brought Frosty back to life?

Answers: 1. Goose Feathers 2. Donner 3. Small Heart 4. Myrrh 5. A song on his drum 6. Pigen 7. Santa Claus

## Changing Lives at Christmas



Sometimes a Christmas gift, large or small, can change someone's life.

Gifts can be a tangible expression of love and can meet a child's or an adult's needs. There are many worthwhile organizations to help us during the holiday season demonstrate our spirit of giving. We wanted to highlight several you may want to support.

**Elves and More** - One of our favorite local organizations serving underprivileged children in Greater Houston is directed by our dear friends, Jenny and David Moore. Elves and More is changing lives – one bike at a time. They have given away over 100,000 bikes to help kids get to school events, after school tutoring, jobs and more. Go to [www.elvesandmore.org](http://www.elvesandmore.org) to learn how to give, donate and volunteer.

**Operation Christmas Child** - A ministry of Samaritan's Purse, their mission is to supply a 'shoe box' full of small toys and hygiene items to needy children around the world. Through millions of 'shoe box' gifts God's love for them is shared. Information and "how to pack a shoe box" can be found at [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org).

**Wreaths Across America** - A wreath laying ceremony that began at Arlington National Cemetery is now a nationwide effort to "Remember, Honor and Teach" in memory of our fallen military. Over 100,000 Christmas wreaths have been laid on veteran's graves at Christmas time. Locally wreaths will be laid at Houston National Cemetery December 11. Visit the local website [www.waahouston.com](http://www.waahouston.com) to give and/or volunteer. To learn more about WAA go to [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org).

**Angel Tree** - A ministry that reaches out to children of inmates in prison and their families on behalf of the incarcerated parent – not only delivering a message of love from parent to child, but also sharing the Christmas story. This organization reaches beyond Christmas and helps meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. To learn more about Angel Tree and how you can help go to [www.angeltree.org](http://www.angeltree.org).

**Heifers International** - HI gives impoverished families gifts of livestock, seeds and training to generate income to help end hunger and poverty. The families agree to give one of its animal's offspring to another family in need to "Pass on the Gift." Gifts vary: heifers, goats, camels, flocks of chicks, ducks and more. To read about their efforts go to [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

## "I Love You More" Goes to Space

On Veterans Day, November 11 we had a surprise from Space Shuttle Commander Ken Ham. After attending our son's funeral in February, Commander Ham directed the STS-132 mission of the Space Shuttle Atlantis. Ken presented our family with one of the I Love You More ping pong balls dropped at our son's funeral after it had traveled with him on his mission.



The small expression of our son's love for family, friends and country launched at 2:20 pm May 14, 2010 from Pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida. It returned on May 26, 2010 at 8:49 am having traveled 186 earth orbits and 4,879,978 statute miles at a maximum speed of 17,500 miles per hour. The flight lasted 11 days, 18 hours, 28 minutes and 2 seconds. Those words were flown for the Hendee family aboard the Shuttle Atlantis to the International Space Station. We feel so honored to have our son remembered on Veteran's Day with such an amazing treasure and story.

## Wine Videos

Ever wonder what "Cellar Temperature" for wine means? Or which wines would compliment your steak the best? Watch our short wine videos for a quick snippet on cellaring, our favorite wines and our wine prices versus our competitors'. Search Taste of Texas Wine Video on YouTube.com or Vimeo.com, or click the link from our Facebook page!



## STAFF UPDATES

We congratulate our December graduates Brysen Schlegelmann completing her BA in Humanities with a Specialization in English and Chandel Strickland graduating with a BBA in Finance.

Robbie Robertson and his wife are expecting their first child, a baby boy in January.

Best Wishes to Mayra Aguilar who is thinking pink on the arrival of her new baby girl.

Congratulations to Joshua Pollock and his new bride, Rebecca who were married in August.

Former staffer Ashleigh Newton will marry her beau, Jeremiah on December 18 in Houston and long time hostess, Holly Sadoski will marry her sweetheart, Nick Campagna on November 27.

## TASTE OF TEXAS.COM GOT A FACELIFT!

We are so excited about our new website, [www.tasteoftexas.com](http://www.tasteoftexas.com)! Our redesign is full of Texas trivia, recipes from the kitchen, customer stories, photos, Nina's recommended Texas History book list, and more! Our new website features both the restaurant and our online store. Link to our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter

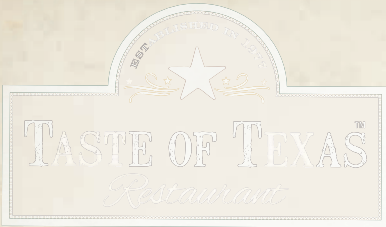


or check out our great new videos all from [tasteoftexas.com](http://tasteoftexas.com).

Do you have a special story about the restaurant? Email us and we will put it up on our site or Facebook page.

We loved the photographer, Joe Cogliandro that did the shots for our new site.

You can check out more of Joe's photography at [www.jc2photo.com](http://www.jc2photo.com).



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## Taste of Texas - One of Houston's Best!



The Taste of Texas has received the **Wine Spectator Award of Excellence** for the 16th year. We are proud of this honor and continue to offer interesting selections that appeal to a wide range of wine lovers.

The Award of Excellence is given to restaurants for their wine lists that offer a well-chosen selection of quality producers, along with a thematic match to the menu in both price and style. Typically these lists offer at least 100 selections. Celebrate the holidays with great quality wines at great values while dining with us. Some of our featured wines will be Catena Malbec, Conn Creek Cabernet Sauvignon and Stag's Leap Wine Cellars "Hands of Time."

For the 2nd year you voted Taste of Texas Best Steakhouse in *Click2Houston'sBest.com* awards. Thank you Channel 2 viewers and you, our customers! Visit [www.click2houstonbest.com](http://www.click2houstonbest.com) for the results.

The Taste of Texas continues to have a strong performance on **Urbanspoon** with many great reviews. Add the **Urbanspoon** App to your Smart Phone to access our website and for other great Houston restaurants.

Our commitment to you, our customer, is to work daily to earn your vote and business!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Please check our website for details and register online at [www.tasteoftexas.com](http://www.tasteoftexas.com)

[WWW.TASTE OF TEXAS.COM](http://WWW.TASTE OF TEXAS.COM)

#### November 26

Our holiday gift card special begins Friday, November 26 (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!

#### April 2 & May 14

**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. Sign up now online for either Saturday 9 am–

11:30 am tour. All proceeds benefit the Taste of Texas scholarship fund for our wait staff. Cost is \$20 per person.

#### April 30

**Taste of Texas Grilling School:** Join Chef Lisa for our popular Grilling School on Saturday April 30 9 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](http://www.tasteoftexas.com). Cost is \$65 per person and includes Steak lunch.