



# What's COOKING

## HOLIDAY HOURS

**Mon - Thurs** 11:00 am to 10:00 pm  
**Friday** 11:00 am to 11:00 pm  
**Saturday** 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm  
**Sunday** 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm

## CHRISTMAS EVE

**Open at 10:30 am**

Waiting List Names taken until 7:00 pm  
(Parties seated in order of arrival)

## CHRISTMAS DAY

**Closed - Merry Christmas!**

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

**11:00 am to the New Year!**

(Parties seated in order of arrival)

## NEW YEAR'S DAY

**3:00 pm to 10:00 pm**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Adult History Tour:** Saturday,  
January 23 & April 23

**Wine Dinner:** Monday, February 29  
"Leap Day" featuring Stag's Leap  
& Frog Leap's Wineries

**Steak School:** Saturday, March 5

## GIFT CARD SPECIAL

**Buy \$100, Get \$25 Free**

## OPEN NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 24

Our Taste of Texas Gift Card Special begins Friday, November 27 at 9 am, and continues through December 24 at 9 pm\*. Buy \$100 in Gift Cards and get \$25 FREE!

To purchase, visit our Gift Store just inside the front doors, or shop online at [www.tasteoftexas.com](http://www.tasteoftexas.com). Click on "Gift Card Special" and have the gift cards shipped USPS directly to you or your recipient with a gift message. Our gift cards (including the \$25 FREE) carry no restrictions or expirations and are a great value.

\*The online gift card special ends December 23 at 12:00 noon. Our gift cards may be used for dining and purchases in the restaurant only, not online.

## CHRISTMAS SPARKLES at the Taste of Texas



Our SPECTACULAR Christmas Decorations are waiting for you at Taste of Texas! Nina and the decorating team have brought back the best of the years of decorating and many new additions which make this year better than ever!

New items in our Christmas Collection include three additional needlepoint stockings from our friends at the Needle House on Bammel Lane – a Houston tradition for personalized décor. We are proudly displaying a new jeweled Christmas tree from the designer Alan Anderson to add to our collection. Our decorator Lori Bumbera will be selling her custom made jeweled trees in frames for \$75 again this year.

Inside and out, there are thousands of twinkling lights, towering nutcrackers, Santas that capture hearts, antique sleighs, skis and collectables. The season at the Taste of Texas is wrapped in hundreds of feet of garland and mounted green trees. The antique Christmas Post Card collections were printed in Germany pre-war time and

are exquisite. Some of our favorite pieces include antique Christmas storybooks, songbooks, and antique holiday newspapers.



The wagon barn, rock fountain, and our beautiful stone fireplace are favorite Christmas photo settings. The wagon barn dons our unique Christmas sleighs as a back drop to capture your special Christmas moment in pictures. Bring your camera!

Merry Christmas to you and yours from the Taste of Texas family!

## TASTE OF TEXAS ONLINE

*Order by Dec 7 and receive 2 bonus Steak Knives*

Order any steak package by December 7 and we will include 2 Taste of Texas Steak Knives as our gift! Family, friends and business associates will always be thrilled with the "Gift of Steak" for the holidays. The same Certified Angus Beef Filets, Strips, Rib Eyes and more that we serve to you at Taste of Texas will be shipped right to the door of someone on your gift list. It's as easy as SHOP, CLICK, DONE at [www.tasteoftexas.com](http://www.tasteoftexas.com)!

Our steaks are shipped frozen and arrive via FedEx in a cooler including our grilling guide and Taste of Texas Steak Seasoning. Complete your gift with other accompaniments of quail bites, grilled shrimp, and herb garlic butter. New this

year online is our famous Cinnamon Honey Butter which compliments any Holiday Table.

We ship Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with our **LAST SHIPPING DATE on Wednesday December 21 for steaks and December 22 for gift cards for Christmas arrival.**





FAMILY NEWS



**38th Anniversary of Taste of Texas:**

It all started November 19, 1977 in an old building on Memorial Drive in Town and Country Village as the Taste of Texas first opened its doors. We could not have dreamed or envisioned in any way what has occurred over the last 38 years. Our staff has numbered over 10,000 and counting with 52 couples over the years meeting and marrying while working at the Taste. We have had their children come to work at the Taste as 2nd generation employees, and we cannot wait for their children to work here as a 3rd generation staff member. Nina has entertained 4th grade school tours for 32 years and last year over 10,000 children came through. Yes, we have had a child say that his mother came on a school tour! Over 200,000 Houston school children have toured our Texas museum and heard Nina make Texas History come alive! But none of this would be possible without you! Thank you for making history in our lives and our restaurant! Happy 38th Anniversary Taste of Texas!

Edd and Nina: We are grateful to God for Edd’s healing from the plane crash. We are back flying again and enjoying every minute of it! Nina and Edd are in the gym most mornings at 5am and are enjoying the mornings together, working together, and family time.

Lisa and Chris Blackard with Hannah (5) and Elizabeth (2 ½) are all well and busy building a new home. Chris continues the tradition of taking Hannah to school on the back of the bicycle!

“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, good will toward men.”  
LUKE 2:14

Kristin and Corbin Blackford are loving living in Houston as Corbin begins his career at Bracewell Giuliani.

Claudine and David Hartland are staying busy with 5 children: Sam-12, Campbell 10, Hudson-8, Reagan-6, and Conrad almost 2.



We had all the grandkids together this past July at Deer Valley Ranch in Colorado – a favorite family gathering place for the past 30 years for us all.

Check them out at [www.deervalleyranch.com](http://www.deervalleyranch.com).

From our family to yours – wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Joy Filled New Year!

Wreaths Across America

The Taste of Texas is privileged to participate again with Wreaths Across America to honor our military veterans for their service and sacrifice. The annual wreath laying ceremony began at Arlington National Cemetery in 1992 and has spread across the country. Houstonians will honor fallen heroes by placing a wreath on all 60,000+ graves at the Houston National Cemetery on Saturday, December 12th. Our staff and their families will once again join this powerful ceremony to remember our fallen heroes, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation about the cost of our freedom. It is attended by hundreds of family members and volunteers, and the public is welcome.

You can join us by purchasing wreaths on the Taste of Texas Restaurant team page at [www.waahouston.com](http://www.waahouston.com). Each wreath is \$15.00 and your donation is so appreciated. Thank you for supporting Wreaths Across America and we hope to see you at Houston National Cemetery on December 12th.



CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

- 1. What is the name of the rabbit in the magic hat in Frosty the Snowman?
- 2. How many gifts would you receive if you received all of the gifts in the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas”?
- 3. In the song, “Go Tell It on the Mountain”, what are you supposed to go tell on a mountain?
- 4. What Christmas song is hidden in the alphabet: “ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ”?
- 5. What do you call an elf who sings?
- 6. Tongue Twister - 3 times fast  
How many deer would a reindeer reign if a reindeer could reign deer?
- 7. Here’s a tough one: What song did Schroeder play indicating it was his selection for the Christmas play music?

**ANSWERS:**  
1. Hocus Pocus 2. 364 Gifts 3. Jesus Christ is born!  
4. Noel (No “L”) 5. A Wrapper!  
7. Fur Elise. “Beethoven Christmas Music”

Taste of Texas’ Own ‘Stormin’ Norman To The Rescue’



Some people selflessly step up in crisis without a thought to their own safety. Our manager, Norman Faust, is one of those heroes. On a rainy Saturday night in last May’s flood, Norm left the restaurant after work on his way home. The freeway was closed due to high water and he pulled over on higher ground in a parking lot where he saw a group of people staring at a car almost completely submerged in the flood waters of I-10 and Beltway 8 feeder road.

Norm asked if anyone was in the vehicle and no one knew, but he thought he saw a person in the car. Norman went into rescue mode and tied a rope around his waist and waded into the chest high water. When he got to the car, he found a woman trapped inside still in her seatbelt with the water to her chin. He was able to open the door and in ‘Norm fashion’ began assuring her and coaxing her to trust him. As he put her on his back he told her “now don’t get fresh with me” to lighten the crisis for the frightened driver, and the two made their way to higher ground.

This daring rescue has led to the creation of the “Stormin’ Norman” coffee mug with Taste of Texas coffee included. These mugs will be sold online at [TasteofTexas.com](http://TasteofTexas.com) and in the Taste of Texas Gift Shop. Norman wants all proceeds to go to, as Norman states, to “the real heroes” - our veterans through the Impact a Hero Fund for wounded warriors. Come buy or go online to get your “Stormin’ Norman” mug and coffee and support this wonderful organization!



Celebrating Special Occasions

Each and every day the Taste of Texas Restaurant is a destination for special occasions and celebrations. The Heart of Texas is the dinner table and we marvel at the great personal stories that fill our dining room. You have raised your families here and celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, engagements, and graduations from kindergarten to college. We have seen you share a great steak dinner with military sons and daughters leaving for deployment or upon their glorious return and we couldn’t be more honored in those moments.

Many business lunches and dinners have helped develop relationships and conduct commerce worldwide right at our tables. We have been honored to set the table for Retirements and Service Anniversaries for the finest companies in Houston and we are delighted to see these careers recognized.

Some of the greatest celebrations we have known are for milestones like “last radiation treatment” or “completion of Chemotherapy” and the announcement of “Cancer Free!” We rejoice with you all.



One of our most precious family gatherings was the Klein Family. Pam and Dick Klein have been customers since the early days in the old building. Dick famously was our first Butcher Shop Customer picking out his own steak and directing the seasoning of it with flare and gusto.

This picture was taken earlier this year as the family gathered again with Dick for a great meal as he was in a battle for his life. While we all lost a dear friend, husband, father, and mentor – his memory lives on with the Klein family and our staff.

Thank you for making Taste of Texas a part of your life! We look forward to many more great moments with you all.

STAFF UPDATES

Wedding Bells! Congratulations to Manager, David Wilcox and wife Michelle, on a beautiful July wedding.



We have 3 new babies in our Taste of Texas family! Michael Tucker and his wife welcomed their baby boy Beckett Michael Tucker born on October 8. Pam Poullard delivered a beautiful girl Rylie Nicole Campbell on October 21. David & Amanda Combs are first time parents to a beautiful baby girl, Emma Marie born July 22.

“Rollin’ on the River” - Ben Duckett and former staff member, John Garcia, completed the Texas Water Safari this summer. Ben and John placed 3rd in their class, finishing the 265 mile race in 59 hours and 24 minutes. Manager Jay Fox completed about ½ of the race before his kayak was disabled in a log jam. Congratulations to all who participated in this grueling event.



Restaurant Impossible at Taste of Texas - Lindsey Johnson had a fun evening serving Chef Robert Irvine. The Restaurant Impossible host visited the Taste of Texas this summer and of course he visited the kitchen! The staff loved seeing him pretending to bark out orders to them!



Feast With the Beasts: Taste of Texas participates annually in this charity event hosted by the Houston Zoo. Staff members Manuela Correa and Armando Ocampo represented the Taste of Texas and made a lot of new friends – some of them actually live at the ZOO!

Congratulations to Robbie Robertson on his new position with Refined Technologies.

ARMY Strong: We salute wait staff veteran Doug Millar who joined the Army this fall to pursue his dream to attend Ranger school. We are so proud of Doug!





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## David Arthur Winery in Napa Valley, CA



It was the quintessential Napa Valley moment – a glass of wine and warm conversation with a winemaker entrepreneur in his family's vineyard. That was our afternoon with David Long of David Arthur Vineyards this past month in Napa. It has been a family operation since its inception and our conversation with David took an even more delightful turn when his daughter with her infant in tow arrived to work at the adjacent office! David's father bought the land in Napa 60+ years ago for his family's future. In the late 1970s David began planting the first vineyard and 25 years ago David Arthur Winery released their first vintage. We now feature three selections from David Arthur vineyards and they are remarkable Cabernets deep in flavor and character. This month David visited us at Taste of Texas for lunch, and experienced another family business which has 2 generations working in it – Taste of Texas. Welcome to the family David Arthur Vineyards!

### 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)

Thank you for supporting our Special Events at the Taste. The Steak Schools & History Tours are Fun with a Purpose! All proceeds go toward our Staff Scholarship Fund. We give 6 Semester Scholarships including Tuition & Books each year. The proceeds from these events allow us to give an additional number of Scholarships to our staff. In 2015 we awarded over \$45,000 in additional scholarships.

#### January 23 & April 23

**Adult Texas History Tour with Nina:** Please join Nina for a morning of exciting stories about Texas History and the Legends of our beloved state. Lunch is included. Cost is \$25 plus tax per person. Sign up online for either Saturday. 9 am – 12:00 pm.

#### February 29

**"Leap Day" Wine Dinner featuring Stag's Leap Winery & Frog Leap's Winery:** Join us on Leap Day for our next Taste of Texas Wine Dinner. Another amazing 5 course dinner by Chef Fritz Gitschner and wine pairing. Cost is \$149.95 per person includes tax and gratuity. Space is limited. Reserve your place online. 6:30-9:30 pm.

#### March 5

**Steak School:** You'll learn about USDA grading, trim specifications, the aging process and how to grill a perfect steak every time. This makes a wonderful gift for the steak lovers and grillers in your life. Come hungry! Register online. Cost is \$75 plus tax per person and includes a Steak lunch, and an apron. 9 am – 11:30 am.

#### Please note:

We do not ship tickets for the events. You will receive a confirmation email after registering and will be added to the event's roster.