# TASTE OF TEXAS Unat's Cooking

#### HOLIDAY HOURS

#### **BEGINNING Monday, November 30**

**Mon - Fri** 10:30 am to 10:00 pm **Saturday** 2:30 pm to 11:00 pm **Sunday** 2:30 pm to 10:00 pm

#### **Christmas Eve**

10:30 am – serving continuously all day. Waiting List Names Taken Until 7:00 pm (Reservations recommended)

#### Christmas Day

Closed - Merry Christmas!

#### New Year's Eve

11:00 am to the New Year (Reservations recommended)

#### New Year's Day

4:00 pm to 10:00 pm

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### February 6th

Adult Texas History Tour with Nina

#### February 8th

Wine Dinner

#### March 6th

Adult Texas History Tour with Nina

#### March 27th

Cooking School with Chef Lisa Blackard

Special events may be reserved at tasteoftexas.com/events

#### TASTE OF TEXAS TO-GO FROM THE GRILL AT HOME STORE

We have made To-Go orders easy so you can have Taste of Texas at home in just a few clicks on your smartphone or tablet! From our website tasteoftexas.com, click ORDERS TO-GO, make your selections including a great wine choice and your order will be ready and waiting for you! And the Grill at Home Store has dedicated parking right up front. Enjoy a great steak at home tonight!



#### MERRY AND BRIGHT: CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

If there was EVER a year to go "overboard" on Christmas Decorations – 2020 is the one! Nina's design talents are beyond compare and the customer response to our spectacular Christmas decorations is lifting all of our spirits!! The Taste of Texas is transformed once again into Christmas Wonderland with 50 "elves" working over 1,000 man hours to complete the transformation. Antique sleds, skis and skates, and thousands of twinkling lights deck the halls for your Christmas delight. Jeweled Christmas trees, along with beautiful needlework pieces, quilts, rare antique postcards, and hooked rugs complete this treasured collection.



Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

#### THE SHOW STOPPER: Jeweled Christmas Trees



These past few years we have acquired the most beautiful display of Jeweled Christmas Trees from artist Alan Anderson of West Virginia that have literally stopped customers in their tracks as they walk through the restaurant. These breathtaking pieces are displayed throughout the Taste of Texas and are easily spotted by the array of customers with their cameras out taking pictures and asking, "Where did you get these?" Our talented friend, Lori Bumbera, has some of her framed small jeweled trees for sale in our gift store. Lori's amazing decorating work with Nina has brought our Christmas décor to a new level these past couple of years and we are so proud of her!

### Gift Card Special Starts today!

Buy \$100, Get \$25 Free

This is our 31st year to celebrate you, our customer, with the famous Gift Card Special! From now to Christmas Eve, you will receive a FREE \$25 gift card for every \$100 in Taste of Texas gift cards you buy. \*The free gift cards will be valid January 1, 2021 for the entire year.

# **3** Easy Ways to Give the Gift of Texas Hospitality:

- 1. In-store, dedicated parking available at our beautiful Grill-At-Home Store.
- 2. Online, delivered to your door, flexible shipping options available.
- 3. E-gift Cards, NEW this year! Perfect for last-minute gifting.

## Visit tasteoftexas.com/gift-cards

#### FREE FED-EX GROUND SHIPPING

On Orders with Knives this season, we are offering FREE SHIPPING when you add a set of knives to your cart. We ship via FedEx on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and our last shipping day is Monday December 21st for steaks and gifts to arrive by Christmas. Easy as Shop, Click, Done!

#### **SAME DAY -** Houston Delivery

Need gourmet steaks for the grill or a last-minute gift that will impress? Stay in and let Shipt® deliver Taste of Texas to your door the same day. Order all of your favorites from our online store, choose Courier as your shipping method for a flat fee of \$8 - available within the Houston area, 7 days a week.

# FAMILY NEWS

Nina's News: When I was 17 years old, I surrendered a baby for adoption, and for 48 years I have prayed for the Lord to hold him close and protect him, and if it was God's will, for us to someday reunite. God answered that prayer last December when I received a letter from my son, Kyle Poulson. Our reunion has been a stunning glimpse of the depth of God's love, mercy, and grace. His parents Mary Jo and Knute Poulson, along with daughter Kirstin, gave Kyle a profoundly loving and happy family. It was a huge blessing that Kyle and I got to share our story on Mother's Day at Second Baptist Church! Welcome to the family Kyle!

**Edd's News**: Just before the Covid lockdown, I had a knee replacement, so I got PLENTY of time at home this spring! The new knee is just great and we got in some wonderful hiking this summer in the Rockies. I still love flying and with all these grandkids, it sure makes traveling easy! Now, if I can just keep up with Nina!

Kristin and Corbin Blackford are having a ball directing the rapidly growing online business and playing with son Henry, who is now four, and new baby Ann Campbell Blackford, born November 1st. Named for her greatgrandmother, Ann Campbell Hendee, Annie has captured all our hearts, and Henry is so proud of his new baby sister. Thank you Lord for these blessings!



Lisa and Chris Blackard, and their girls, Hannah (9), Lizzie (7) and Maddie (3), moved back home to Texas from Singapore late this summer, and they are so happy to be back with family and friends. Their time in Asia was an incredible experience and the family pictures of their adventures are real treasures! The girls stay busy with school and activities, Chris is enjoying his career with Shell Oil Company, and Lisa is back working at the Taste.



Claudine and David Hartland are busy with their 5 kids and remodeling their beautiful home! Oldest son Sam is 16 and driving, Campbell is 15 and just finished a great football season, Hudson is 13, is growing up quickly and is looking forward to basketball season. Daughter Reagan (11) is enjoying Presbyterian school with her youngest brother Conrad (7). All are happy and healthy – thank you Lord!



Kyle and Erin Poulson make their home in Ft. Worth, TX with daughter Grayson who is a TCU Freshman and son Jackson who is a sophomore in high school. Kyle and Jackson stay busy with baseball and showing steers – Jackson recently took Reserve Grand Champion at the steer show in Eastland, TX. Congratulations!!!







# Taste of Texas Holiday Gift Guide Give the gift of steak!

Order by Monday, December 21st for Christmas arrival, but order today so your guests can enjoy as soon as possible!

For a complete list of our steak packages, go to tasteoftexas.com.

Our most popular package: 8 Pack Complete Trim Six Ounce Filets: Aged 40+ days and fork tender, our Center Cut Filets set the standard for exquisite tenderness and taste.

A huge hit for our Christmas Gift List: Personalized Steak Knives, Grilling Tools, and Carving Sets: All may be engraved instantly with your gift recipient's name, initials, or company logo.

**Taste of Texas Carving Package:** Thrill your family with a 32 ounce Chateaubriand Roast Tenderloin and an elegant high-carbon stainless steel carving set, personalized with your name or initials.

**Texas Triple Play:** Send the best of all steaks with this package of two 6 ounce Complete Trim Filets, two 20 ounce T-Bones, and two 16 ounce New York strips. With something for everyone, this selection is great for entertaining a crowd.

Leather Apron: The ideal grilling apron for any Master Griller, our Limited Edition leather apron is handcrafted features supple full-grain leather.

### **Taste of Texas Dining Reservations:**

Great news! To better serve our guests, we are now accepting reservations for parties of 10 or less. Go to our website TasteofTexas.com and make a reservation so conveniently right from your cell phone or call 713-932-6901 and our staff will assist you. Don't have a reservation or your time is not available? No worries! We have plenty of tables, and you can join the waitlist online (day-of dining only) from the comfort of your home at our website as well.

# This year more than ever before - we are so thankful for our loyal customers.

As we celebrate the Taste's 43rd anniversary November 19th, we want to say a sincere "Thank You!" to all of our customers who have supported us year in and year out with family celebrations, special events, and just to have a great steak dinner!! This challenging year hasn't been fun for any of us but seeing your joyful faces at the dinner table has brought us through the tough times with such assurance that Taste of Texas is YOUR special place. Thank you for being our customer and we look forward to 2021!

# Taste of Texas Wins 2020 BEST OF THE BEST award!

This summer the Houston Chronicle announced the winners of the Best of the Best community choice awards -nominated and voted on by the area readers.

Taste of Texas was honored to win:

- · Best Steakhouse
- Best Dining Experience
- Best All Around Restaurant

Houston is the 4th largest city in the country and our restaurants are second to none – so to win those three awards is the highest honor we could ever dream of! Thank you to all our customers who nominated us and voted us Best of the Best!! The real Best of the Best award goes to our customers!



### Staff Updates





Manager Lemuel Restauro married Cindy Le October 2020 – they worked together at the Taste for years!

Server Martha Vargas welcomed a baby girl this past October.

Server Regina Warren is engaged to be married this December to Chevis Gantt.

2020 Graduates: Jason Fung, Armando Ocampo, Marissa Guiterrez, Brooke Duret, Lauren Witt, Elizabeth Baker, Jessica Heopful, Sophia Deng, and Amaris Smith. Congratulations Graduates!

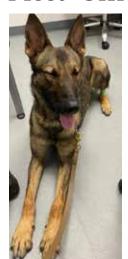
Hostess Kim Franco welcomed a baby boy last November

Congratulations to all our staff!

# Remembering our dear friend Tony Vallone

Houston lost it's premier restauranteur Tony Vallone this fall, and we all lost a hero and a dear friend. Tony and Donna Vallone are legends in the Houston Restaurant Community as Tony's established the standards of excellence in Fine Dining for over 50 years. Donna and their amazing staff are continuing the Tony's experience of excellence and we highly recommend you visit this wonderful restaurant!

### Meet "Officer Hutch" - newest member of the HPD SWAT K9 Unit



Taste of Texas sponsored "Hutch" for the Houston Police Department and Officer Roccaforte, a hero who miraculously recovered after being shot three times by a robbery suspect in September of 2019.

Hutch is named for our dear friend and Taste of Texas Director of Security, Janice Hutchinson who has been part of the Taste family since 1991. Janice was a dedicated HPD police officer who has contributed immensely to the Taste and the surrounding community.

Janice moved to Houston as a single mother and achieved her dream of becoming an officer in 1986. At one point, Edd jokingly expressed doubt that she could actually apprehend and handcuff a suspect should her duties require it.

She promptly flipped Edd over her back, put him face down on the kitchen floor and placed him in cuffs. She's been a Taste legend ever since! We trust that K9 Hutch will be an asset to the HPD just like his namesake.

In this picture, Hutch is the one with the pointy ears. Officer Roccaforte is kneeling with his hand on Hutch's back, and Janice Hutchinson is front row left. The steak on the floor is a gift from Edd to Hutch to celebrate Hutch's first "arrest" which occurred the night before when he caught a fugitive hiding under a house. Great arrest Hutch!





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#### **HOLIDAY VISIT "PRO" TIPS:**

A few things to note for restaurant celebrations over the holidays:

- · Parties must be complete to be seated
- · We strongly recommend reservations, or join the wait list online.
- If your party size changes let us know as soon as possible as it can affect your seating time.
- The largest party size we can seat at one table is 10 guests.
- Proper attire required.



#### John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

From our family to yours, *Merry Christmas* 

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

#### February 6th & March 6th

Adult Texas History Tour with Nina 9am to 11am. Please join Nina for a morning of exciting tales of Texas History and the legends of our beloved Texas. Cost is \$45+tax per person and includes lunch.

#### February 8th

Wine Dinner. Chef Lisa and our team will create an incredible 5 course dinner paired with remarkable wines and a story of each selection. Cost \$175 per person +tax.

#### March 27

Cooking School with Chef Lisa Blackard. Lisa will share with you her best recipes for your Easter Dinner – guaranteed to send you home a better chef! Cost is \$95 per person + tax. Includes lunch and a cookbook.