



What's COOKING

HOLIDAY HOURS

Mon - Thurs 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 11:00 am
 Waiting List Names taken until 7:00 pm
 (Parties seated in order of arrival)

CHRISTMAS DAY
Closed - Merry Christmas!

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Open 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 10 & April 11

Wine Dinner:
 March 2 featuring Texas Wines
 (Texas Independence Day)

Steak School: Saturday, March 14

GIFT CARD SPECIAL

Buy \$100, Get \$25 Free

OPEN NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 24

The Taste of Texas Gift Card Special begins Friday, November 28th at 9 a.m. and continues through December 24th at 9 p.m. Buy \$100 in Gift Cards and get \$25 FREE!

To purchase, visit the Taste of Texas Gift Store just inside the front doors of the restaurant, or visit the "Gift Card Special" at www.tasteoftexas.com to have the gift cards shipped either to you or directly to a recipient with a gift message. Our gift cards have no expiration date and make a great gift!

*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.

Our Best Christmas Decorations **EVER!**

Christmas at the Taste of Texas is very special to us, and we are elated by the joy it brings to families and corporate customers. Nina and her decorating team have worked early mornings, nights, and weekends to deck our halls, and this year is the best ever! Thousands of twinkling lights, hundreds of feet of green garland, and towering nutcrackers fill the dining rooms with Christmas cheer. The main fireplace is the favorite spot for family photos, and its sparkling lights, snow village houses, wreaths, garland, and colorful décor provide a perfect backdrop for pictures. During your visit, do not miss the magnificent handmade Christmas quilts and commissioned needlepoint pieces - they are

among our favorite things. About 30 years ago we began our treasure hunt in the summer months in Colorado for unique antique skis, poles, skates and sleds to bring a taste of *winter days gone by* to our customers, and our team has recreated this festive and magical setting.



MAKING MEMORIES IN PHOTOS

Capture the magic of Christmas in your family photo at Taste of Texas this year. Santa Claus will be seated at the fireplace on Monday and Tuesday nights (December 8th, 9th, 15th & 16th) from 5:30-7:30 PM. Bring your camera and your family and create a wonderful memorable moment with Santa pictures.

Our Wagon Barn is beautifully decorated and our antique sleighs make the perfect Christmas photo spot to complete your visit with friends and family.

Create your own favorite photo and share it with us! Send to online@tasteoftexas.com.



TASTE OF TEXAS ONLINE Make Christmas Sizzle!

Looking for an original gift idea that will impress and delight your family, friends and business associates? Give the gift of steak this year from Taste of Texas! At www.tasteoftexas.com, we offer everyone's favorite cuts: Filets, NY Strips, T-Bones, Rib Eyes and more.

For your convenience, all steaks are shipped frozen and arrive via FedEx right to your door! We include our grilling guide and our own Taste of Texas Steak Seasoning. Complete your gift with our accompaniments of quail bites, grilled shrimp, and our famous herb garlic butter to bring the Taste of Texas right to your table.

We will ship Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with our **LAST SHIPPING DATE on Wednesday December 17. Order today – it's as easy as Shop-Click-Done at tasteoftexas.com.**





FAMILY NEWS



Lisa and Chris are staying busy raising Hannah (3 ½) and Elizabeth (1 ½). The girls are delightful and hilarious at these fun ages. Chris completed the Woodlands Iron Man in May and is enjoying his career at Shell and family time. Lisa remains active in the Taste of Texas and loves being a mom to her girls.

Kristin and Corbin graduated from the University of Virginia Darden and Law Schools in May and moved to Houston! They are thrilled to be "Gone to Texas."

David, Claudine and the four children have completely fallen in love with baby Conrad, who is 9 months old. He is constantly laughing and

being entertained by a sibling. They are so thankful for him. All the children are busy with school and sports! Reagan is playing soccer for the first time! The best part is Coach Biggee (Edd!). Hudson is playing fall baseball and loving it! Sam and Campbell are trying a new sport, lacrosse! They are also playing basketball!

Nina and Edd have enjoyed the extensive remodel of the Taste of Texas which Nina points out is SPECTACULAR! Edd's retirement from radio gives us a few more hours in the day to spend at work and enjoying the grandkids. The Taste of Texas continues to be a huge blessing to all of us – thank you for being such a great part of our lives.

Wreaths Across America



Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring our military veterans for their service and sacrifice. The annual wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery began in 1992 and is now performed across the country. These powerful ceremonies remember our fallen heroes, honor those who serve, and teach our children about the cost of our freedoms.

In 2007, a Houston father and son watched a video about the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington and volunteered to lay wreaths at the VA National Cemetery here in Houston. They placed their order for wreaths and called the cemetery to see when they could place them. They were told that, due to lack of funding, the Houston National Cemetery does not receive live wreaths for all burial sites. The son simply stated, "That's not fair... Let's go get some wreaths." This was the beginning of a city-wide goal to honor every veteran laid to rest at the Houston National Cemetery.

This year, Houstonians will honor fallen heroes by placing a wreath on all 60,000+ graves. The Taste of Texas is privileged to share in this fundraising effort, and we ask for your support. Please join us by purchasing a wreath or wreaths at the Taste of Texas Restaurant team page at www.waahouston.com. Each wreath is \$15.00, and any donation is welcome. Your donation will help to honor those who have served and provide a moving visual tribute for the families of those who gave their lives.

Our staff will be joining the Wreaths Across America Houston organization Saturday, December 13th for the wreath laying at Houston National Cemetery. The public is welcome.



CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

1. Between 1870-1890 Christmas ornaments were sold in stores. When were Christmas-tree hooks invented?
2. What drink company coined the phrase "The Pause that Refreshes" using Santa Claus?
3. In Texas, Santa wears a ten-gallon hat. What does he wear in Florida and California?
4. Mistletoe is a symbol of what at Christmas time?
5. In 1885, in Central West Texas, the hotel in Anson held the Cowboy Christmas Ball. What did "Chase your squirrels" and "Climb the grapevine 'round 'em" mean?
6. In Sweden children look for Jultometen, the gnome-like Scandinavian Santa. In folklore what did he replace as the 'gift-giver'?

ANSWERS:

1. 1892
2. The growing Coca-Cola company in the 1930's was looking for ways to increase sales during the winter, slower time. They turned to illustrator Haddon Sundblom, who created a series of drawings of the classic Santa for Coca-Cola.
3. Sunglasses
4. Peace & Joy
5. These were the caller's called dance moves meaning "Follow your dance partner" and "Put your arm around the girl." The Ball continues today as a re-enactment of the original party.
6. The Yule Goat

Sparkling New Christmas Décor



Nina has recently added unique treasures to make the Taste of Texas Christmas SPARKLE!

Last year, during a visit to the Greenbrier shops in West Virginia, she spotted a distinctive 5x7 framed Christmas tree made from beautiful vintage jewelry by artist Alan Anderson. She brought it home to Texas and was excited to add it to the restaurant's collection. After doing some research about the artist, Nina purchased another of his sparkling creations. This larger and even more spectacular jeweled Christmas tree will delight the eyes of our customers. It is displayed on the main hallway outside of the wine room. Artist Alan Anderson's professional background in design and business includes Barneys of NY, The Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego and several Art Galleries in California. His work is beautiful.

Our friend, Lori Bumbera, Seasons of Design, has again designed glittering jeweled Christmas trees for our gift store. All are original and make an exceptional and creative gift.

In the Sam Houston room, our 'one-of-a-kind' Santa collection delights young and old. Two new Santas from designer, Linda Jeanes, join our beautiful display of this most loved figure. Santa with the reindeer and globe prepare for their world-wide tour while Santa on the Train heads out for his Christmas deliveries on a rustic train loaded with toys and gifts. These exquisite pieces spark the imagination and the creative spirit of Christmas.



Saddle Up at the Taste of Texas Bar

Saddle up, partners! The newly remodeled Sam Houston Room is riding high with our beautiful new "Saddle Barstools". This summer we were inspired at the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar in Jackson, WY when we visited this historic site. Since 1937 the Cowboy Bar has been known as Wyoming's landmark watering hole and is famous for its western cowboy motif including genuine saddle barstools. We immediately thought the Taste of Texas needed Saddle Barstools! So we turned to our friends at Charlotte's Saddlery and Circle Y Saddles in Yoakum, TX. The saddles are top quality – hand made and permanently mounted at the bar in the Sam Houston Room. Bring your camera – these saddle barstools are gorgeous!

Tribute to Casey Allen Owens



Cpl. Casey Allen Owens USMC Retired has been a part of our family for 33 years. The Owens family were treasured neighbors in Bear Creek for many years. Casey was a Boy Scout, athlete, and Taste of Texas Employee through High School. Following 9/11, Casey joined the United States Marine Corps. His first deployment was the invasion of Iraq in 2003. On his second deployment to Iraq in 2004, he was severely injured when his Humvee was destroyed by a land mine. Casey lost both legs, but recovered to ski and became a member of the Challenge Aspen Ski Team. He went to the Vancouver Olympics as well as rolling the 2005 and 2009 Marine Corps Marathon. Sadly this past October Casey lost a battle with PTSD. He is remembered for his wit, humor, smile, and unconditional love for his family and friends. Freedom isn't free, and Casey was willing to stand for our nation and our freedom. Donations can be made in his memory to www.impactahero.org and the Semper Fi fund.

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His faithful servants."

PSALM 116:15

STAFF UPDATES

Ben Duckett completed the Missouri River 340 race. He placed 4th in his class out of 85 and 10th overall out of 285 participants in this kayak and canoe marathon. Tyler Williams completed the 12 mile Baytown Tough Mudder November 2nd. A-mazing Ben and Tyler!



Congratulations to Shawn Walker who married former wait staff member, Kelsey Richardson October 4th.

Our Taste of Texas family grows: Anthony Lestage welcomed son, Eoin Liam born May 5, 2014. Matt Gomez is a dad for the first time to son, Owen, born June 20th. Michael Fischer and his wife are expecting baby 2 and Robbie Robertson and wife, Victoria are awaiting baby 3. Kevin Reeves is expecting his first, a boy, in January. Blessings and Congratulations to all!

Sadly, we say good-bye to Mandy Whittaker, after 7 years as a server. Mandy graduates in December from UH with a degree in Supply Chain Management. She will be working for Fluor in Houston.

Jason Fortenberry is the proud owner of Primo Doors. Jason offers a beautiful selection of doors at wholesale prices. Visit www.primodoors.com for more information and to contact Jason.

Server, Val Jean will be working offshore having completed Houston Community College's Rig 1 Program.



NINA'S CRANBERRY TEA RECIPE

- Boil Together: 2 cups Sugar, 3 cups Water, 3 Sticks of Cinnamon
- Add: 2 quarts Water, 1 quart Cranberry Juice, 1 large can of Pineapple Juice, 2 Tbl. Lemon Juice, 2 cups Orange Juice
- Simmer One Half Hour

The smell of cranberry tea simmering on the stove means the holidays are here!



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Happy 37th Anniversary Taste of Texas

My how time flies! 37 years ago, we opened the Taste of Texas on November 19, 1977 with 8 employees and about the same number of customers! Over the years with your support we have grown to 200 employees and over 7,000 customers each week. You have celebrated business and family occasions, engagements, anniversaries, children's birthdays, graduations, business meetings, and so many more. It is our privilege to be your place for special occasions. Thank you for making us a part of your lives.

Along with our anniversary, the Taste of Texas marked yet another milestone in our history. This summer we were honored by The Certified Angus Beef Association. President, John Stika and their staff congratulated us on a 30-Year Anniversary serving Certified Angus Beef. Taste of Texas is the longest running restaurant contract with CAB in the United States. CAB is the key to our quality and consistency for steaks and Prime Rib. We feel like we are just getting started and look forward to many more years with you, our customers!

UPCOMING EVENTS: Please check our website for details and register online at www.tasteoftexas.com **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 a number of \$1,000 Scholarships to our staff. In 2014 we awarded 56!

January 10 & April 11
Adult Texas History Presentation with Nina: Texas history and great Texas heroes come to life as Nina guides you through the rich and colorful history of our beloved state. \$25 plus tax per person. We include lunch. Sign up online for either Saturday, 9 am – 12:00 pm.

March 2: Texas Independence Day
Wine Dinner : We will feature Texas Wines over this 5-course dinner. Each course is carefully paired with an appropriate Texas vintage. \$149.95 per person includes tax and gratuity. Reserve your place online. Space is limited. 6:30-9:30 pm.

March 14
Steak School with Lisa & Edd: Chef Lisa and Edd will fire up the grill and have a fun and informative time planned for all. Take an in-depth look at the components of a great steak. Grading, Aging, Cut and Preparation. Great Christmas gift too! 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.