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## Wine & Food Week is Going Places June 1 – 7, 2026

### 22 Reasons the 22nd Annual Wine & Food Week Is Your Passport to Flavor

**Houston, Texas** (May 11, 2026) ...The 22nd Wine & Food Week, presented by H-E-B kicks off June 1-7 at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center and promises an unforgettable experience for gastronomy enthusiasts and wine aficionados alike. Here are **22 Reasons not to miss the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wine & Food Week — And Yes, We're Going Places.**

#### 22 Reasons You Can't Miss the 22nd Annual Wine & Food Week

1. **Because 22 Years Calls for a toast** – For more than two decades, Wine & Food Week has been serving unforgettable flavors, experiences, and memories for foodies and wine lovers alike.
2. **We're Going Places**– This year's theme Going Places-- Discover Where Wine can Take You celebrates wine as a journey—one shaped by place, people, and craft—where curiosity leads and flavor follows.
3. **Emily in Paris Comes to The Woodlands** – Strike a pose, channel your inner Parisian, and join the fabulous Emily in Paris lookalike contest complete with French-inspired flair and fashion show presented by Love Always Boutique. Featured during Going Places Goes Global June 3 from 6 – 9 p.m.
4. **Italian Wine & BBQ—Saluti!** – Described as the most interesting man in barbecue, Chef Ara Malekian of Harlem Road Texas BBQ is a pitmaster with a passion for extraordinary pairings. We're off to Italy with Trinchero Wines in this deliciously unexpected seminar pairing smoky Texas BBQ with bold Italian wines. Featured Wednesday, June 3 as part of Going Places Goes Global.
5. **Discover the Ancient Wines of Bulgaria** – Wine expert Robyn Arcia from Bernhardt Winery uncorks the fascinating history and unique flavors of one of the world's oldest wine regions in this experiential feature at Going Places Goes Global Wednesday June 3.
6. **Epic Cocktail Creativity** – Expect exotic flavors, dramatic garnishes, and cocktails inspired by places near and far when Crushing It With Cocktails returns with an all-new lineup of elite mixologists to shake things up alongside returning champion Afzal Kaba in the ultimate destination-inspired cocktail showdown. Competing for Best in Glass, Best Themed Cocktail and Crowd Crusher are Uly Vargas—Bludorn; Jesus Cruz—Xalisco, Nick Babock—Amrina, Haley Harper—Botonica, Tyler Silva—The Blind Finch, Obed Gallardo—Flora Mexican Kitchen, and Jacob Morgan—The Woodlands Country Club.



7. **Friday Night is the Ultimate Date Night** – Sips, Suds & Savor delivers one of Houston’s best Friday night escapes with incredible value, endless bites and sips, live music, dancing, chef stations, wine discoveries, craft brews, cocktails, and an electric atmosphere that turns an ordinary night out into a global tasting adventure.
8. **Sip More Than 500 Wines** – From celebrated classics like Duckhorn Sauvignon Blanc, to vault-worthy selections like Antnori, guests can taste wines from around the globe all week long.
9. **More Than 100 Chefs & Restaurants** – Culinary talent from Houston and beyond gathers for one spectacular week of indulgence. This year meet chefs from Aruba, the Texas Hill Country, neighboring Louisiana and more.
10. **Chef of Chefs Competition Heats Up** – Restaurants from near and far battle Saturday night for culinary glory, a \$5,000 cash prize and the coveted *Chef of Chefs* title.
11. **Sweet and savory** –Come hungry, leave happy. Wine & Food Week is a week full of unforgettable bites and perfectly paired wines at each and every event.
12. **Ladies don’t just lunch—they lead!** –Raise a glass with some of the most dynamic voices in wine while enjoying an elegant four-course luncheon expertly paired with wines from the panelist’s own vineyards including Violet Grgich, Grgich Hills Estate, Stephanie Franklin with Frankline Vines, Janet Mietschin of Portree Cellars and Kim Stare Wallace with Dry Creek Vineyard. It’s an afternoon that’s equal parts inspiring, empowering, and delicious.
13. **Meet Wine Icons & Rising Culinary Stars** – From celebrated winemakers to Chopped TV Show champions and emerging chefs, the talent lineup is unmatched.
14. **Reserve Tastings Worth the Hype** – Rare pours, premium vintages, and intimate tasting opportunities await serious wine lovers.
15. **Live Music, DJs & Global Vibes** – Every event delivers the perfect soundtrack for sipping, swirling, and celebrating.
16. **Judges with serious chops**— Industry leaders, master sommeliers, celebrated chefs, media personalities, and culinary insiders gather to judge *Chef of Chefs* and *Crushing It With Cocktails*, where every bite and sip is scored on creativity, presentation, and unforgettable flavor. It’s a hard job but fortunately these tastemakers give willingly of their palates.
17. **Sip for a purpose** – You’ll be part of something bigger. Each event support local charities and community efforts like New Danville, The Woodlands Art Council, Montgomery County Food Bank and Second Chances.
18. **VIP Experiences That Elevate Everything** – From luxury lounges to exclusive tastings, VIP guests enjoy the ultimate Wine & Food Week treatment. You can even reserve your on VIP table.
19. **The Woodlands Is the Perfect Escape** – Scenic, stylish, and packed with energy, it’s the ideal backdrop for a week of food, wine, and celebration. Stay and play at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott hotel to sleep in late and escalator down to nighttime fun.
20. **Wine Education Without the Homework** – Learn from sommeliers, winemakers, chefs, and industry insiders in experiences designed to entertain as much as educate.
21. **It’s insta-worthy**— Make your Instagram feed "sing" during Wine & Food Week by capturing chefs in action, exquisite culinary and pour shots and people-watching galore.
22. **FOMO Is Very Real** – Wine & Food Week only happens once a year, and the 22nd annual celebration promises to be the biggest, boldest, and most global yet.

Get tickets and the full event lineup at [Wine & Food Week](https://www.wineandfoodweek.com)

Event line-up includes **Going Places Goes Global, Crushing it With Cocktails, Ladies the Ladies of the Vine Tasting, Luncheon & Panel Discussion** and **Sips, Suds & Savor**. The week culminates with the grand dame—the elaborate **Wine Rendezvous Grand Tasting & Chef**

**Showcase** at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Ballroom where acclaimed chefs compete for the coveted *Chef of Chefs* Award and a \$5,000 cash prize. Looking for that extra touch of VIP, be sure to get tickets early to the Bayway Cadillac VIP Luxury Lounge with ultra-premium wines but limited space. Wine & Food Week is truly foodie heaven.

Wine & Food Week is presented by H-E-B. Sponsored by: Bayway Cadillac of The Woodlands, Aruba Tourism, The Only Facial, LaCroix, Visit the Woodlands, Trincher Family Estates, Riboli Family Wines, Duckhorn Wine, Dry Creek Vineyard, Michael David Winery, SpeedPro Imaging The Woodlands, The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel, Renewal by Anderson, Texas Renaissance Festival, Women Driving Business, Fit & Fabulous with Sarah Cain, Chateau Aloe Liqueur, Satoma Tequila, Brother's Bond Bourbon, The Whistle Pig, El Tesoro Tequila, Lyre & Thief, Montanya Rum, Glendalough Distillery, Woodlands Online, PaperCity Magazine, Hello Woodlands, KSTAR Country Radio, Community Impact, Infiniti Graphics, Genesis Photography, Video, Kelley Sweet Photography, Minor Details, Photography by Melissa Chapman, and SRG Photography with more announcements to follow.

#### **ABOUT WINE & FOOD WEEK AND FOOD & VINE TIME PRODUCTIONS**

Food & Vine Time Productions, producer of Wine & Food Week, has raised over \$2 million dollars through various channels since its inception in 2002 for local charities and deserving non-profits.

The first large scale event in the Metro founded by Food & Vine Time Productions, Wine & Food Week, was the first multi-day, multi-faceted, comprehensive destination culinary and wine event and the first nationally to promote locally sourced and sustainable products. Founder Constance McDerby with life and business partner, Clifton McDerby have been promoting and furthering the diverse culinary scene to avid followers since 2002. Diffusing the mystique of wines, FVTP events make wines approachable by educating the novice to the aficionado. Food & Vine Time Productions created another first when it launched the state's first multi-day craft beer destination and educational event featuring over 300 craft beer selections. Brewmasters Craft Beer Festival celebrated a decade of craft beer experiences, being named #3 beer event in America by USA Today and #1 in Houston by Houstonia Magazine. Food & Vine Time Productions' events include Houston Chronicle Culinary Stars, Katy Sip N Stroll, Wine Fair Cy-Fair, Zest in the West, Haute Wheels Food Truck Fest, and a myriad of public lifestyle events and private events for various clients. Founders invite you to raise a glass, meet a new friend, share a laugh, and take it all in!