

Sandbar looks to defend title at Taco TKO contest

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Christine Briggs and Kat Garyet serve Sandbar's fish tacos at Pacific BeachFest's fish taco contest this summer, which the restaurant won. / Photo by Thomas Melville

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, the San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival gives foodies something to "taco 'bout" with the fourth annual Taco TKO, featuring fish taco and beer presented by DiningOut Magazine at Quartyard San Diego.

All San Diegans have a go-to taco joint, and this rough-and-tumble showdown pits San Diego's top fish taco makers in a head-to-head battle to be crowned San Diego's finest.

The heat really rises as competitors look to unseat two-time Taco TKO champions Sandbar Sports Grill. Will Sandbar bring home their third consecutive win, or will a new champion be crowned? The power is in the hands of the people, as guests vote for their favorite tacos during the walk-around tasting.

"No visit to San Diego or a Taco Tuesday celebration is complete without beer and fish tacos, and Taco TKO provides an authentic taste of San Diego at an affordable price that all foodies can appreciate," said Michelle Metter,

co-producer of the San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival.

The citywide fish taco competition welcomes returning champ Sandbar Sports Grill as well as The Blind Burro, PB Fish Shop, Don Chido, The Promiscuous Fork, City Taco, Ironside Fish & Oyster and more to participate in this year's competition.

The festival moves to a new location this year and is held at Quartyard San Diego, San Diego's first "pop-up" urban park, from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets to Taco TKO, featuring fish tacos and beer, are on sale for \$45 a person. For a complete schedule of events or to purchase tickets for the San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival, visit sandiegowineclassic.com.

Guests will be able to sip on unique craft beers on draft while weighing in on the chef's taco creations specially paired together with beers from various breweries.

Stella Artois, Cabotella Mexican Ale, Ballast Point, Shock Top, Goose Island, 10 Barrel Brewing Co., Elysian Brewing Co. and Negra Modelo. Upcoming top chef competitor and executive chef of Común Kitchen and Tavern, Chad White serves as a guest judge throughout the showdown, providing his picks for best taco, while popular San Diego musician Mike Myrdal of Dave Mathews Tribute Band Stepping Feet provides entertainment.

The 12th annual San Diego Bay Wine + Food Festival showcases the world's premier wine and spirits producers, chefs and culinary personalities and gourmet foods. Set for Nov. 16-22, the event benefits culinary arts and oenology scholarships awarded by The American Institute of Wine & Food and the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. More than 150 wineries, breweries and spirit companies and 70 of San Diego's top fine dining restaurants and 30 gourmet food companies will participate in the festival.

For more information, visit sandiegowineclassic.com or call (619) 312-1212.