

JAMAICA[®]

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JAMAICA SIZZLES AT FOOD NETWORK & COOKING CHANNEL SOUTH BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL WITH AWARD-WINNING CULINARY TALENT



Above: Chef Andre Fowles serves up bold and exciting Jamaican flavors at Taste Jamaica at the 2020 South Beach Wine & Food Festival.

MIAMI, FL – MARCH 5, 2020 – The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) partnered with the Tourism Enhancement Fund to offer “Taste of Jamaica”, an unforgettable showcase of Jamaican gastronomy & mixology, at the 2020 Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival. The event was hosted by James Beard award-winning chef, JJ Johnson, and two-time Food Network Chopped Champion Andre Fowles, on February 21 at the historic National Hotel. The night was a success as “Taste Jamaica” offered iconic Jamaican flavors and an entertainment experience that overflowed with soulful rhythm and energy.

Jamaica’s global impact on the culinary world is undeniable as it brought together more than a dozen chefs, restaurants, and vendors from across the island and the U.S., to showcase their

remarkable talent and creativity. Each curated dish was a vivid representation of Jamaica's distinct history, heritage and culture – attendees enjoyed an eclectic menu including signature jerk dishes, oxtail, dumplings and stews. Red Stripe and Appleton Estate Rum served up refreshing and creative libations, while Miami's own DJ Irie provided the soundtrack for the evening with a mash-up of reggae and dancehall hits.

Participating chefs included Samantha Davis, Culinary Director and Co-Owner of FieldTrip; Winston Grant, CEO & Head Chef of Aunt I's Jamaican Restaurant; Charissa Henry-Skyers of Pink Apron Jamaica; Oji Jaja of Ashebre The Virtual Restaurant; Dennis Kerr of Dukunoo Jamaican Kitchen; Kalisa Martin of The Runaway Experience; Goff Lee of Makka & Mana Poke; Matthew McDonald, Executive Chef of the National Hotel; Delius Shirley, Co-Owner and Cindy Hutson, Executive Chef and Co-Owner of Ortanique on the Mile; Christina Simonitsch of Simo's Bread and Catering; Wenford Simpson, Chef Ambassador of Walkerswood Caribbean Foods; and Hugh Sinclair, Executive Chef of Irie Spice.



Above (L-R): Donovan White Jamaica's Director of Tourism (left) poses with Patrice White (center) and Donnie Dawson Jamaica's Deputy Director of Tourism, Sales (right) at Taste Jamaica at the 2020 South Beach Wine & Food Festival.



Above: "Taste Jamaica" attendees enjoying Jamaican food and drinks

The Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival is produced by Florida International University and Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, with the support of the Miami Beach Visitors & Convention Authority and the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs. All proceeds from the Festival benefit the students at the Florida International University Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

JTB's ongoing partnership with SOBEWFF is strategic as it reiterates the island's bold and tasty cuisine to a captive audience, while positioning Jamaica as one of the most sought-after culinary destinations in the world.

For more information on travel to Jamaica or culinary events taking place on island, go to www.visitjamaica.com.

About Jamaica Tourist Board

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), founded in 1955, is Jamaica's national tourism agency based in the capital city of Kingston. JTB offices are also located in Montego Bay, Miami, Toronto and London. Representative offices are located in Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Amsterdam, Mumbai, Tokyo and Paris.

This year, the JTB was declared the Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board by the World Travel Awards (WTA) for the thirteenth consecutive year and Jamaica was declared the Caribbean's Leading Destination for the fifteenth consecutive year. Jamaica also earned the WTA award for the World's Leading Cruise Destination and Leading Meetings & Conference Centre for the Montego Bay Convention Centre. Most recently, Jamaica was named as one of the "Best Places to Go in 2020" according to *CNN*, *Bloomberg* and *Forbes*. Jamaica was awarded three gold 2020 Travvy Awards including Best

Culinary Destination, Caribbean/Bahamas; Best Tourism Board Overall and Best Tourism Board, Caribbean/Bahamas. In 2019, TripAdvisor® ranked Jamaica as the #1 Caribbean Destination and #14 Best Destination in the World. In 2018, the International Council of the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) named Jamaica the Destination of the Year and TravAlliance Media named JTB Best Tourism Board, and Jamaica as Best Culinary Destination, Best Wedding Destination and Best Honeymoon Destination. Jamaica is home to some of the world's best accommodations, attractions and service providers that continue to receive prominent global recognition.

For details on upcoming special events, attractions and accommodations in Jamaica go to the JTB's Website at www.visitjamaica.com or call the Jamaica Tourist Board at 1-800-JAMAICA (1-800-526-2422). Follow the JTB on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [YouTube](#). View the JTB blog at www.islandbuzzjamaica.com.

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