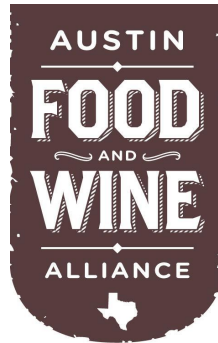


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## AUSTIN FOOD & WINE ALLIANCE AND TIPSY TEXAN ANNOUNCE MENUS FOR OFFICIAL DRINK OF AUSTIN

*Spirited Cocktail Competition on May 10 Features  
Tasting of City's Top Bar Food & Texas Spirit Showcase*

**AUSTIN, TX (May 1, 2018)** – Austin's restaurants will showcase an eclectic mix of bar nibbles and sweets at this year's annual **Official Drink of Austin** cocktail competition, **Thursday, May 10, from 7–10 p.m.** The city's finest cocktail-friendly bites from 16 bars and restaurants will be featured along with the top contenders for this year's Austin's Official Drink for 2018.

**Eight bar teams from local bars and restaurants** were selected in a rousing citywide competition. The winning teams will mix up Austin-inspired cocktails and top-notch bar food for the May 10 event at **Fairmont Austin**, 101 Red River St., **from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.** to raise funds for culinary grants while trying to capture the title of Austin's official drink for 2018. **Tickets are available** online at [AustinFoodWineAlliance.org](http://AustinFoodWineAlliance.org) for \$70 per person. The annual event typically sells out. Tickets at the door, if available, will be \$85.

This year's competing bar teams include ATX Cocina, Backbeat, Fulton, Garage Cocktail Bar, Juniper, Kemuri Tatsu-Ya, Nickel City, and Odd Duck. The popular craft cocktail showdown made a stunning return in 2014 as Austin's cocktail guru, **David Alan**, also known as "The Topsy Texan," and the Austin Food & Wine Alliance came together to resurrect the city's favorite cocktail event after a few years' hiatus.

Judging this year's competition will be **Tameca Jones**, Austin's favorite soul and R&B musician; **Trevor Scott**, TV personality of "We Are Austin"; **Justin Elliott**, state mixologist of Southern Glazer's; **Amanda Rockman**, pastry chef of South Congress Hotel, and **Chris Bostick**, **creative director and owner of Half Step Bar**, **finalist for Best New American Cocktail Bar at Tales of the Cocktail**, and **one of Esquire's Top Bars in America**.

Austin spirit lovers will have the chance at the competition to sample a variety of craft cocktails and also taste the Official Drink of Austin contest entries. In addition, attendees will experience innovative chef-prepared bar foods, cheer on the competitors, and enjoy soul and funk tunes played by Dan Gentile of Flying Turns and Dart Collective, sponsored by Jameson Irish Whiskey.

**Restaurants and menus featured at the Official Drink of Austin include the following:**

- **Central Standard** - Stuffed Snap Peas
- **Colleen's Kitchen** - Mini-Salted Chocolate Chip Cookie with Peppermint Buttercream
- **COUNTER 3. FIVE. VII** - Loaded Baked Potato with Cheddar Cheese and Bacon
- **District Kitchen + Cocktails** - Braised Goat Shoulder with Pickled Mustard Seed and Apple Relish, Horseradish Mousse, Celery Greens & Kennebec Potato Chip
- **Fixe** - New Orleans-Style BBQ Shrimp Toast with Ocean Bread, Wild Gulf Shrimp, Rock Shrimp, New Orleans BBQ & Smoked Butter
- **Flyrite Chicken** - Spicy Chicken & Cocoa Waffle
- **Foreign & Domestic** - Windy Hill Goat Heart, Huancaína, & Yucca
- **Garbo's Fresh Maine Lobster** - Oysters on the Half Shell
- **Ghost Hill at Treaty Oak Distillery** - Smoked Brisket with Sweet Corn, Pecan Cream, Corn-Sourdough Crisp & Cilantro
- **Lick Honest Ice Creams** - Brown Derby - Bourbon, Grapefruit & Honey
- **Nightcap** - Beef Tartare with Black Currant, Mustard & Hazelnut
- **Rules & Regs** - Rohan Duck Tamale with Black Bean Mole
- **Skull & Cakebones** - Pineapple Rum Trifle - Treaty Oak Barrel Reserve Rum Cake, Pineapple Jam & Coconut Buttercream
- **Swift's Attic** - Tuna Tartare with Nuoc Cham, Kizame & Avocado Puree
- **Vino Vino** - Two Spanish Tortillas: Spring Onion & Chorizo with Anchovy
- **Weather Up** - Chilled Sweet Pea Soup with Pink Peppercorn Cream

The Official Drink of Austin competition shines a spotlight on **Austin's talented bartending community**. **The competition requires the drink makers to use at least one local ingredient**. The **2017 Official Drink of Austin** winner was the bar team from **Frank** led by **Alexis Mijares**, who claimed the title with the "Capital City Collins," featuring **Old Highborn Texas Dry Gin** with flavors of lemon, strawberry-tarragon syrup, and coconut.

AFWA hosts engaging culinary events throughout the year **to raise funds for culinary grants, the nation's first grant program based on culinary innovation and community giveback**. Since 2012, the nonprofit has awarded **\$192,500 in grants to fund local culinary projects**.

**As the key beneficiary of the [Austin FOOD & WINE Festival](#)**, a three-day tribute to world-renowned chefs and winemakers held each spring, **AFWA features educational programming and culinary events showcasing** Central Texas's chef talent along with artisan and local producers, world-class wine and spirit makers, and craft brewers.

The Alliance continues to win tremendous community support with **Whole Foods Market** as a presenting sponsor and other key supporters, including **Austin Food & Wine Festival, ABC Bank, Republic National Distributing Company, Southern Glazer's, Austin Monthly, FreshPoint, Giant Noise, Twin Liquors, CultureMap, Premiere Events, Fresa's Chicken al Carbon, Balcones Recycling, Polsinelli, Topo Chico, Cuvée Coffee, Beam Suntory, Patrón, William Grant & Sons, Campari, Kimo Sabe Mezcal, Texas Beef Council, Washington State Wine, Sysco, Treaty Oak Distilling, Consumable Content, Flyrite Chicken, Jameson Irish Whiskey, Tito's Handmade Vodka, and Fairmont Austin**.

For more information about AFWA, visit [AustinFoodWineAlliance.org](http://AustinFoodWineAlliance.org), call **512.348.6847**, or email [Info@AustinFoodWineAlliance.org](mailto:Info@AustinFoodWineAlliance.org). Stay up to date with Austin Food & Wine Alliance happenings on Facebook <http://facebook.com/austinfoodwinealliance> and Twitter <http://twitter.com/ATXFoodWineAlly>.

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#### **ABOUT THE AUSTIN FOOD AND WINE ALLIANCE**

The Austin Food & Wine Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering awareness and innovation in the Central Texas culinary community through grants, educational programming, and events. Guided by an all-volunteer board of directors and committees made up of culinary- and

community-minded professionals, the Alliance's commitment is to promote Texas food, wine, spirits, and craft brews and to increase appreciation of Texas' culinary impact. The AFWA is the designated beneficiary of the [Austin FOOD & WINE Festival](#). For more information about the Austin Food & Wine Alliance, visit [AustinFoodWineAlliance.org](http://AustinFoodWineAlliance.org).