SET-UP for Top Chef: Latino and EMPANADA SMACKDOWN!

Sunday, Oct 25th, 2026 (NEW DATE!)

@ Centennial Pk – Ybor City

SEE YOUR VENDOR SET UP INFO HERE!

Contestant RULES & Instructions

TOP CASH PRIZE or Awards FOR:

1st Prize EMPANADA SMACKDOWN

1st Prize LATINO FOOD CHEF. 1st POPULAR IN BOTH CATEGORIES.

All Vendors must be set up by: 11:30AM. Festival opens at: 12:00PM. The festival will end at 6:00PM.

CONTESTANTS are NOT ALLOWED in the judging / VIP area until after 4PM.

Welcome to the Top Latino Chef Food Contest, this year's Competition for to find the TOP Latino Chef

ON THE MORNING OF THE FESTIVAL: A Team member from the Event Contest will come by and provide you with serving tins for your contest entries.

YOUR CONTEST ENTRIES WILL BE PICKED UP BY OUR TEAM MEMBER

TOP Latino Chef Contest Entry Times are: 12:30 PM- 2:00 PM.

How many Contest Entries will you be submitting? _____

Are you in the EMPANADA Smackdown? ____

What time would you like the 1st Pick-Up: ____ 2nd Pick-Up: ____ 3rd Pick-Up: ____

Pick ONE or more Contest Categories Include:

TOP PRIZE FOR EMPANADA SMACKDOWN AND TOP LATINO FOOD CHEF ENTRIES!

OTHER Contest Categories Include:

TOP PRIZE: EMPANADAS, EMPANADILLAS, PASTEILLOS, ETC. PLUS TOP LATINO FOOD CHEF.

Other Entries Include

Best Rice Dish/Arroz: Chef Choice of Arroz con Pollo, Paella, Arroz con Gandules, Morro, or Other Rice Dish

Best Appetizer/Tapas: To Include Chef Choice of Arepas, Alcapurria, Cuban Sandwich, other sandwich and or Tamales or other.

Dessert: Chef choice of Latin Dessert; Flan, Tres Leches, Guava Pastry or other.

Scores are based on TASTE and PRESENTATION: Each Contest entry will be judged by the following criteria: Appearance, Presentation, Taste, Texture and Authenticity.

You need to provide 90 BITE SIZE Samples (see above for pic sample) for each category that you are competing in. There must no identifying signage on submitted samples, plates, or napkins.

Jolie; Jolie@HispanicCulturalResourceFoundation.Org TEXT: (813) 407-6866 or Vic Vpadilla@HRFCC.ORG TEXT: (813) 407-7191

When posting pics via social media please use Hashtags: #TasteofLatino #HARDROCKTAMPA #Paella #Empanadas #CubanSandwiches #arepas #Cafeconleche #HispanicHeritage

Winner Receives an award on stage, press and promotion for your restaurant or business

GOOD LUCK: WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE 2026 Taste of Latino! FESTIVAL!