



# What's COOKING

## HOLIDAY HOURS

**Monday through Thursday**  
11:00 am to 10:00 pm

**Friday**  
11:00 am to 11:00 pm

**Saturday**  
3:30 pm to 11:00 pm

**Sunday**  
3:00 pm to 10:00 pm

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**Open at 11:00 am**  
**Names taken until 7:00 pm**  
**No reservations**  
*(Parties seated in order of arrival)*

### CHRISTMAS DAY

**Closed - Merry Christmas!**

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

**11:00 am to the New Year!**  
**No reservations**  
*(Parties seated in order of arrival)*

### NEW YEAR'S DAY

**3:00 pm to 10:00 pm**

## GIFT CARD SPECIAL

**Buy \$100, Get \$25 Free**

### OPEN NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 24

The Taste of Texas Gift Card Special begins Friday November 29 at 9 am through December 24 at 9 pm. Buy \$100 in Gift Cards and get \$25 FREE! To purchase, visit our Taste of Texas Gift Store just inside the front doors or shop online at [www.tasteoftexas.com](http://www.tasteoftexas.com) and have the gift cards shipped FedEx either to you or directly to your recipient with a gift message. **Online gift card special ends December 23 at 12:00 noon.** Our gift cards carry no restrictions or expirations and are a great value.

\*Please note: our gift cards are for dining in the restaurant or purchases made in the restaurant only, they cannot be used online.

## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS at the TASTE of TEXAS



Nina has raised the bar on Christmas décor this year as both of our spectacular fireplaces have been refaced with beautiful Texas stone and new mantels. We have 10,000 new LED twinkle lights, new Santas and Nutcrackers, and other new delightful Christmas additions.

Christmas decoration planning is a year-round project and the restaurant is transformed overnight. The Christmas spirit has been rolled out for this beautiful season along with our festive green trees, garland, hundreds of bows, antique sleighs, skis and collectables. Our driveways and walkways are sparkling passages to memorable gatherings with family and friends.

The wagon barn and our newly reconstructed water fall are great settings for your special Christmas photos. The wagon barn is fully decorated and our beautiful antique sleighs will capture the season in your pictures.

Whether it's your holiday tradition of dining with us or your first visit during our favorite

season, we look forward to your visit. Sharing great food, treasured company and magical surroundings are what the Taste of Texas Christmas is famous for. Merry Christmas one and all!

## FAMILY PHOTOS

**Wagon Barn:** The wagon barn and our newly reconstructed water fall are great settings for your special Christmas photos. The wagon barn is fully decorated and our beautiful antique sleighs will capture the season in your pictures.

**Santa Visits:** Santa Claus will be seated at our beautiful new fireplace Monday and Tuesday nights December 2 & 3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17 from 5:30-7:30 for a great photo opportunity for your family. Bring your camera and capture Santa with your special someone.

## TASTE OF TEXAS ONLINE

### Give Steaks for Christmas



Surprise and delight your family, and business associates with the gift of steaks this Holiday Season at [www.tasteoftexas.com](http://www.tasteoftexas.com). We offer everyone's favorite cuts: Filets, Strips, T-Bones, Ribeyes and more. Our steak packages make a phenomenal gift. For your convenience, all steaks are shipped "quick frozen" by FedEx right to your door!

We include our grilling guide and our own Taste of Texas Steak Seasoning. Include some of our other popular items in your gift: shrimp for grilling, quail bites, and our herb and blue cheese butters to make that special dinner unforgettable. We will ship on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays with our **LAST SHIPPING DATE on Wednesday December 18.**

*It's as easy as shop, click, done!*

## FAMILY NEWS



Another year of blessings in our family! Biggest news is the arrival of Elizabeth Lauren Blackard born in May 2013. Chris and Lisa are proud parents and older sister Hannah keeps busy helping Mom with baby Elizabeth! Hannah turns 3 in December and is enjoying pre-school. Lisa is active in Baby Boot Camp and Chris is training for an Iron Man Triathlon in May.

Kristin and Corbin are in their final year of UVA Darden MBA (Kristin) and UVA Law (Corbin). Life in Charlottesville, VA is great and they look forward to careers in Houston after graduation.

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"*

LUKE 2:11



Claudine and David Hartland are thrilled to announce they are expecting a baby in February 2014! Their lives are pretty busy with Sam (10), Campbell (8), Hudson (6) and Reagan (4).

Since Sam is in the 4th grade, he is studying Texas History and will be attending Nina's Texas History School tour this February for River Oaks Baptist. This will be Nina's first grandchild on a Texas History Tour. The boys have all been working at the restaurant for extra money, and they love washing dishes.

Nina has been remodeling and redecorating the Taste of Texas full time! School tours, Christmas Decorations, and overseeing day to day operations keeps her busy at the restaurant. Nina and Edd are enjoying travel and cycling and in October they cycled the Napa Valley area and visited the wineries featured on the Taste of Texas wine list. Edd is back on the radio on KSEV 6 am to 9 am Monday through Friday and joins Nina at the Taste by midday. Edd is still an active pilot and enjoys flying.

## Tuskegee Airmen Visit Taste of Texas



For over 10 years the Tuskegee Airmen have visited Houston for the Wings Over Houston Airshow, and we have had the privilege of hosting them for dinner. The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African-American pilots who fought in World War II. They were also the first African-American military aviators in the United States armed forces.

The three surviving Airmen, Charles McGee (94), George E. Hardy (88), Alexander Jefferson (92), enjoyed what may be their last visit to Houston and to the Taste of Texas. These men are true American heroes and a national treasure that won't be forgotten. The movie "Red Tails" is a great story about these amazing aviators and their bravery.

Customer, Aimee Guillermet writes on the Taste of Texas Facebook page: "I actually had dinner there last night and had the chance to meet them. My grandfather was a navigator on B-17s, and when I told them, they gathered around and one said, 'Well we got the son of a gun home didn't we? We always got those son of a guns home. Kicking and cursing, our tails on fire, but we got them home!' Moral of the story? Heroes give the best hugs." Thank you Aimee for sharing your personal encounter with these great men.

## CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

1. Since 1966 the National Christmas Tree Association has given a tree to whom?
2. In 1880 Frank Woolworth was hesitant to sell these and before long he was ordering 200,000 of them. What were they?
3. What is the official Christmas bird?
4. The 1st Teddy Bear appeared under Christmas trees in 1906 in whose honor?
5. Fluffy, new-fallen snow has what percentage of water?
6. In 1939 what national retailer created Rudolph as a holiday promotion?
7. What does Arctic Village, Christmas, Holly, Ivy, Joy, Mistletoe, Turkey, & Frost have in common?
8. In Frontier days, what was popular to cut star shapes from to decorate the tree?

**Answers:** 1. The President & first family 2. Christmas Ornaments 3. Red Cardinal 4. President Teddy Roosevelt for saving a bear cub 5. 8% 6. Montgomery Ward 7. They are all Christmas postmark towns in the US (AK, FL, MN, CO, MI, VA, IL, KY, NC, TX) 8. Soap



## Taste of Texas Artifact Additions

ORIGINAL

PLEASE MAIL EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

Last year for Christmas Nina got a replica of the "Come and Take It Cannon" which she has proudly shown to customers, foreign visitors, and 4th grade students on school tours. This year she added a rare document signed by both Sam Houston and Gail Borden and Texas Declaration of Independence signers Jesse Grimes and William Fisher dated 1835. She loves sharing the signatures of these Texas Greats with our customers.

Great finds come in small packages sometimes. Nina's friends at the "Antiquarium" introduced her to a very rare antique Christmas postcard which now hangs with our collection.

This exceptional piece is by artist and political cartoonist Thomas Nast who gave us the 'Santa' of the original "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and our nation's Uncle Sam. This postcard, dated 1907-1909 was pre-WWI, printed in Germany and depicts Uncle Sam as "Santa" with a bag of toys. It is postmarked December 25, 1909 and simply signed Momma.

## 36 Years & Still 'Under Construction'



On November 19th we celebrated our 36th year of business. In 1990 and 23 years ago construction began at our current location. The construction 'bug' is alive and well in both of us. Our new bar dining area has been redecorated and enclosed for a more intimate dining experience. We especially love the wine cases and the handsome paneling which we continued to our small patio and entry area. Even the bear has new décor!

Nelson Water Gardens created our beautiful new water feature that is happiness to the eyes and ears. This area is a great place to sit and enjoy the evening or afternoon while visiting the Taste of Texas.



## Home for the Holidays

Just in time to celebrate the holidays, family friends USMC Major Rudd & Susan Olmstead had a great homecoming when Rudd returned from Afghanistan in October. After a year's deployment Rudd was reunited with his wife and new daughter. Susan writes "We have settled in together well and Verity is learning to really enjoy this fun, hairy man we call, "Daddy".

We feel grateful and relieved to be together again under one roof for a while. Not to mention, we are tremendously thankful!"

Former employees and dear friends, USAF Captain Dan & Michelle Thompson are now stationed in Alaska. Dan returned home from his second deployment in October also to a package of Taste of Texas Steaks overnighted with love to Alaska. Dan flies the F-22 Raptor with the 90th Fighter Squadron based in Elmendorf AFB. Michelle said "Dan is already planning his meal at the Taste when we are home over Thanksgiving!"

We are thankful and grateful to both families and their service to our nation. Welcome Home!

Congratulations to our dear friend, US Navy Seal Lt Cdr Seth Stone and his beautiful new bride, Emily. Seth and Emily were married in San Diego August 24th.

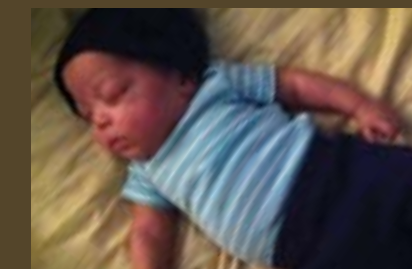


## STAFF UPDATES

Server **Jonathan Obermier** graduated from Lone Star College Spring 2013 with honors and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Jon is now attending Bauer School of Business at UH studying Supply Chain Management. He also has served as President of the Economics Club at Lone Star College.

**Robbie Robertson** and his wife welcomed daughter Victoria Lynn, 9 lbs. 14 oz. on July 5th. Congratulations and Blessings.

Wait staff member **Vanessa Neang** and her husband Savy have opened a wonderful breakfast shop, Max Donuts. We have sampled their yummy fare on many occasions. Their kolaches and breakfast sandwiches are outstanding! Who doesn't love a creamy donut? They have all the makings for a successful enterprise. Stop in or order for your next morning gathering. 7720 Jackrabbit Road 77095 281.469.3650. [www.facebook.com/Maxdonutjackrabbit](http://www.facebook.com/Maxdonutjackrabbit)



We are celebrating the new brave life of Myles Carter Mason, son of Server **Myles Mason**. Baby Myles was born June 21st at 24 weeks and 3 days, 1 lb. 7 oz. Myles and Sommer have been courageous parents along with an amazing staff at Women's Hospital in caring for his early arrival. Myles Carter came home October 20th at 7 lbs. 3oz with no surgeries and no additional support or medication. Welcome Baby Myles!

We have incredible parents among our staff. This summer **Tyler Williams** and his wife Lupe took their daughter Emily to Galveston to donate all of her birthday gifts to the Ronald McDonald house. This was Emily's idea and it was a very emotional experience. They were very proud of Emily's selflessness and kindness. Way to go Tyler, Lupe and Emily!





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## HONORS & AWARDS

Taste of Texas was named **CitySearch Best Steakhouse 2013**. We are honored once again to be chosen by you, our customer.

To our delight, **Great Day Houston on KHOU** Channel 11 notified us we had been voted as **Best Steakhouse in Houston** by their viewers.

Nina was honored by the **Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Speakers Committee**. She is the recipient of The 100 Grand Club award (having reached 100,000 points). Nina was also named Team Speaker of the Year!



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Please check our website for details and register online at [www.tasteoftexas.com](http://www.tasteoftexas.com)

[WWW.TASTE OF TEXAS.COM](http://WWW.TASTE OF TEXAS.COM)

Thank you for supporting our Special Events at the Taste. The Grilling Schools & History Tours are Fun with a Purpose! All proceeds go toward our Staff Scholarship Fund. We give 6 Semester Scholarships including Tuition & Books each year. The proceeds from these events allow us to give a number of \$1,000 Scholarships to our staff. In 2013 we awarded 34!

### January 25 & April 12

**Adult Texas History Presentation with Nina:** Texas History and our great Texas heroes come to life as Nina presents our rich Texas history. \$25 plus tax per person. We include lunch. Sign up online for either Saturday. Event is from 9 am – 12:00 pm.

### February 24

**Silver Oak Wine Dinner Celebrating our 36th Year:** We will be featuring Silver Oak Winery for our 5 course dinner. Each course is paired with an amazing Silver Oak wine. \$149.95 per person includes tax and gratuity. 6:30-9:30 pm. Sign up online. Space is limited.

### March 1

**Grilling School with Lisa & Edd:** Chef Lisa and Edd will fire up the grill and have a fun and informative time planned for all. Take an in-depth look at the components of a great steak. Grading, Aging, Cut and Preparation. Great Christmas gift too! Register online. 9 am – 11:30 am. Cost is \$75 plus tax per person and includes a Steak lunch, and an apron.