

The Zest Bonus: Bites Around the Bay: 4 Taco Spots to Drool Over for Mexican Independence Day ===

Dalia: [00:00:00] I'm Dalia Colon, and this is The Zest. Citrus, seafood, Spanish flavor, and Southern charm. The Zest celebrates cuisine and community in the Sunshine State. I am here once again with our brand manager and foodie extraordinaire, Alexandria Ebron. Alex, what are we here to taco about today?

Alex: We are here to talk

about tacos.

Dalia: See what I did there?

We are here to talk about tacos, uh, you know, Taco Tuesday, everything.

Yeah. And you know, Cinco de Mayo gets a lot of love for tacos, which we totally respect, but Mexican Independence Day is actually in September.

Alex: Mm-hmm.

Dalia: So if ever there was a time to eat a taco-

Alex: Taco-

Dalia: Time is now

Alex: burrito, whatever.

Dalia: The time is now. The

Alex: time is now.

Dalia: Okay, my mouth's already watering. Let's go. Let's get into it.

Alex: Okay, so boom. These are four places in Tampa where you can get a good taco. Now again, people in the [00:01:00] comments and on the internet, please do not beat me up if you do not eat at these places.

Dalia: No, don't beat her up.

You shout out your favorites. Yes. Hit us up on Facebook or Instagram at The Zest Podcast and you let us know your favorite spots.

Alex: Yeah, let us know in the

Dalia: comments. St. Pete people, we need you to chime in.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: Enter the chat.

Alex: If you live in the greater Tampa Bay region, just let us know where you like to get your tacos, and then we can have a nice conversation.

This is,

Dalia: this is Alex's Mount Rushmore, right?

Alex: Exactly. These are the places that I like, you guys. Okay. So number one, you have Rene's. He has a truck.

Dalia: Rene's Mexican Kitchen. Mm-hmm. Friend of the pod. He is from Monterrey, Mexico, so he has the rec- Mexico, let me say it that way. He's from Monterrey, Mexico, and he is doing authentic, like, Mexican, um...

He's got things like octopus. Yeah. He's got some higher end meats on the menu. This is not your Taco Bell thru.

Alex: No, it's [00:02:00] not.

Dalia: The line will be long.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: It will be worth it.

Alex: Yeah. Or you can go to his actual brick and mortar, which is over in the Ybor area. I believe it's off of 17th Avenue or 17th Street.

I live over there, and sometimes I get confused, so it's okay. Um, yeah, so you can go over there if the line is too long at his food truck. Another place, another Ybor gem, is Jimmy's Tacos. You know, get you some nice churros, get you some nice birria tacos- I've been- Or regular tacos, whatever ...

Dalia: I've been looking for a good churro since my family went to Mexico.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: Man.

Alex: So basically, what that tells me is you and I should take a Zest field trip.

Dalia: Let's go right now. End of show. End of show.

Alex: And go to Jimmy's- Man ... and get some churros. Can

Dalia: you talk about tacos without getting hungry? No.

Alex: No.

Dalia: It's impossible.

Alex: It is impossible.

Dalia: Okay, just go to the next one. My stomach- Okay.

cannot even handle this conversation.

Alex: [00:03:00] Um, so another one is Xtreme Tacos on Nebraska. It's in the Seminole Heights neighborhood. Oh my gosh, I've been eating Xtreme Tacos for years, since they were in a little, a little room off of Waters Avenue. Yeah. So I like their burritos. Oh my God, their burritos are so good, their tacos.

And, uh, Sophie and Uzi are, are cool people. Those are the owners, so shout out to them. And, um, yeah, they're so cool, and their f- their, their tacos are so good. I love them.

Dalia: Amazing. Okay, so this is your Mount Rushmore, so we have one more. Who's your, who's your Abraham Lincoln?

Alex: I was gonna say Ben Franklin, but I don't think he's on

Dalia: the roster I don't even really know who's on that thing.

Alex: Me neither. Me neither. Uh, last one is Tacos Las Californias. Um, they're also, uh, in this year's line-up of the Buccaneer Chef Series, so, um, their date is a little bit later in the season.

Dalia: Okay, so that's if you go to the Buc's home game- Yes ... at Ray Jay, you can get food [00:04:00] prepared by them-

Alex: Yes ...

Dalia: that day only.

Alex: Yes.

Dalia: Okay. This is your final pick.

Alex: My final pick, Tacos Las Californias. I've, oh my gosh, I've enjoyed them for years. Also, we used to live off of, um, Armenia, and they had a truck off Armenia, so sometimes I would go for lunch leave my little apartment and go there for lunch for me and Robert and just... You know, you get, you get a lot for a little bit.

Dalia: That's the best.

Alex: So.

Dalia: Oh,

Alex: man. That's, yeah, that's always a good deal. Ah. Just tacos on tacos. Obviously, again, you gotta get the churros. If they have a little, um, ooh, if the taco spot has any sort of flavor of agua

Dalia: fresca- I was just gonna bring that up ...

Alex: get the agua fresca. It doesn't matter the flavor, just get the agua fresca.

Dalia: Yes, they have, like, watermelon- Mm-hmm ... mango, pineapple. It's per- Yes ... it's like a little vacation.

Alex: It is. Oh. A vacation in

Dalia: a cup. Vacation- Yeah ... in a cup. So good. And here was my little hack. Okay. So I have some picky eaters in my household, [00:05:00] and tacos is one of the things that's always a hit. If you just are having company at all, just make a taco bar.

Okay. Everybody likes tacos. If they don't eat meat, like me, you can put beans or tofu- Yeah ... or something else. But so for Christmas last year, I actually did a taco bar as our Christmas dinner.

Alex: No, that's a good idea.

Dalia: And I will never go back.

Alex: No.

Dalia: Yeah. There's never a bad time for tacos, but of course, Cinco de Mayo, Taco Tuesday, and Mexican Independence Day- Yeah

that is the best time.

Alex: Just get you a taco, and everything in life will be great.

Dalia: Everything

Alex: will be okay. Everything will be okay.

Dalia: It will all be okay. Yeah. Well, Alex, thanks for coming and making it all okay.

Alex: Thanks for having me.

Dalia: And remember again to hit us up in the comments on Facebook or Instagram @thezestpodcast, and you let us know the spots that we missed.

We talked about Tampa today, but I know our St. Pete friends, Clearwater, Sarasota listeners- Yeah ... you have your faves, and we all need to know. We should start, like, a Google Doc or something. We

Alex: should.

Dalia: Incredible. Yeah,

Alex: you're like the queen of Google Docs, so. I do love a Google Doc.[00:06:00]

Dalia: We have to organize these tacos. Yes,

Alex: yes.

Dalia: Okay. Let's, let's work on... We're gonna get out of here so we can work on that right now. Mm-hmm. I'm Dalia Colon here with Alexandria Ebron, and we threw Zest with Andrew Lucas. The Zest is a production of WUSF, copyright 2026, part of NPR

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