

Bites Around the Bay: Bucs Chef Series ===

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. Today I am joined by The Zest's brand manager, Alexandria Ebron. Now, when you reach out to us on social media, Alex is the one you're interacting with.

And more importantly, when I'm looking for a great meal out on the town, Alex is the one I turn to. Thanks for joining us.

Alex: Thanks for having me.

Dalia: What are we talking about this week? Are we ready for some football?

Alex: Sort of.

Dalia: I'm ready for some football food.

Alex: Yeah, ready for some football food. So like recently, um, I went to the Buccaneers Chef Series, uh, preview.

And with the Chef Series it's nine local, uh, chefs obviously, um, and they create a dish for home games. So the home opener is September 20th, and I believe the first chef, if you will, is from Jazzy's Barbecue, and they're doing a brisket sandwich.

Dalia: Ooh. Yeah. Wait a second. Okay. First of all, home opener [00:01:00] against my Cleveland Browns.

When you say they create a dish for the home opener, is it something that's for sale like only that day?

Alex: Yeah. It's only at the home game. So if you go to the home game on September 20th, uh, the first person you'll have, first chef if you will, is from Jazzy's Barbecue, and they're doing a brisket sandwich.

Um, other chefs, and I, I, I'll put the dates in the caption, and also you can look forward to seeing videos of the chefs, uh, is Chef Joseph from Flan Factory. He's doing a mojo pork sandwich. Oh,

Dalia: Flan Fa-

Alex: Yeah ...

Dalia: can we just take a moment- ... to appreciate-

Alex: Flan Factory is like one of my favorite places. Like we've been following him, oh my gosh, I think the first time I had him he was just a little tent, a little booth at, uh, at a market at Armature Works.

And so just to see his trajectory from- Armature Works to now having a place inside of Armature Works [00:02:00] and their own, uh, brick and mortar on, um, Nebraska and 7th.

Dalia: Yes. So- Don't let that, don't let that deter you, the fact that it's on Nebraska.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: Incredible. And it's not just flan.

Alex: No, it's not just flan. He has, he has merch, so I got some stickers.

He has T-shirts. Uh-

Dalia: He has, like, savory dishes. Yeah. The cheese. Okay. The-

Alex: Oh, the Timba ... the

Dalia: fried cheese. I'm not really a fried cheese girl, but-

Alex: Listen ...

Dalia: I would make an exception.

Alex: There was, there was a trend this month that's like five things that are worth the money, and obviously, depending on your niche, you can kinda modify it.

And so mine was five Tampa foods that are worth the money, and one of them was Timba because, yes, fried cheese, uh, a guava sauce. Yes. They're good.

Dalia: Sweet and-

Alex: Sweet. Like, sweet and savory.

Dalia: Sweet and salty.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: Oh, my God. Best combo. Okay. Sorry, that was a little, a little detour that was very much worth taking.

But tell me about the brisket sandwich. Did you try it?

Alex: I wasn't able to try it, because it was towards the end of the, uh, end of the event, and so I'm just trying to, [00:03:00] like, hurry and get interviews. But I do wanna make, uh, make a trip out to Jazzy's. It's more on the, like, western part of Tampa. Not West Tampa, but, uh, I think it's...

It might be off of Waters Avenue, like close to Veterans, so over there.

Dalia: Over there.

Alex: Yeah. Over there. Okay.

Dalia: What else? What else is coming up for the Chef Series?

Alex: Oh, my gosh. Obviously, you gotta have The Columbia. They have, uh, I forgot the name of the sandwich, but it's with chorizo, and that was good. Um,

our, a friend to the show, Nate Siegel, uh, over at Cheeky's, he has a shrimp po'boy.

I think his home game is against New Orleans. Okay. So,

Dalia: like- I see what he did there.

Alex: Right. So obviously. Um, but yeah, I, I... Those dates are later on in the season, but, you know, those are just a couple other people you can try.

Dalia: Ooh, fun. Okay. So can anybody walk in, buy their ticket, and partake? How does this work?

Alex: Yeah, so you [00:04:00] can find those foods at a specific area in, uh, in Ray Jay, Raymond James. Um, and it's only for that game. So if you wanna get your shrimp po'boy from Cheeky's, you can get it at, uh, at that game. With some of the places, I think they do plan on having their items on their menus. Um, I'm not sure when, but, um, if they do have those on their, on their menus, you know, make it a point to go get it again.

Dalia: Yeah. 100%. I mean, listen, I'm not really into football.

Alex: Yeah, me neither.

Dalia: But I'm really there... I need one of those T-shirts that says, "I'm here for the food."

Alex: Yeah. Yeah, that's me. I'm here for the food. I'm here until halftime, and then I'm going upstairs to, I don't know, watch something else that I actually wanna watch.

Um, so I usually leave Robert downstairs with the dog and him hollering.

Dalia: Oh, my gosh. Okay, well, I'm hollering for this food. Alex, we are excited for football season. Yeah. Go, Bucs. Thanks for stopping by.

Alex: Thanks for having me. [00:05:00]

Dalia: Of course. I'm Dalia Colon. Alex and I produce The Zest with Andrew Lucas. The Zest is a production of WUSF.

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