

Bites (and Beverages) Around the Bay: Our National Coffee Day picks ===

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. September 29th is National Coffee Day. Some people train for this all year.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: Yeah. I'm here with Alexandria Ebron, our brand manager, and I'm gonna say, like, coffee connoisseur.

You're really a tea girly.

Alex: Yeah, I'm a tea girly, but, you know, I enjoy a little latte occasionally.

Dalia: And anything food and drink in Tampa-

Alex: Yeah ...

Dalia: you're the one I'm calling. You really are. So you're, like, the friend we all need in the group chat to tell us where to go for National Coffee Day.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: What's on your list?

Alex: Okay. So for National Coffee Day, right now there is a pop-up over in Ash in Water Street with Wuz Here Coffee. Um, I went to the pop-up, like, one of the first few days they were out, and I enjoyed it. Um, I think Robert had a Espresso Limeade, so now he's obsessed.

Dalia: Wait, [00:01:00] wait, what? Okay.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: Robert is your husband.

Alex: Robert is my husband.

Dalia: Espresso limeade.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: Is that hot or cold?

Alex: Uh, I think it was cold. I believe it was cold. I just

Dalia: feel like there's

Alex: so much- I know it sounds crazy- Yeah ... but now he's obsessed.

Dalia: Okay.

Alex: Yeah. You can actually get an Espresso Lemonade at Blind Tiger, friend to the show. Um, yeah.

Dalia: Okay, so it's a thing.

Alex: It's a thing.

Dalia: You know what? Actually, that makes sense because my friend Michael, shout out to Michael, is of Italian heritage, and he was telling me how in Italy they put, like, a lemon peel in their espresso.

Alex: Oh, all right.

Dalia: So that makes sense. It's a pop-up, so- It's a

Alex: pop-up ...

Dalia: how long is this going on?

Alex: Um, I believe it's, it's in Ash until December.

Okay. So it's only in the mornings. Um, so you can probably check out either Ash or Wuz Here Coffee's Instagram to find those hours. Um, also, I think another popular drink from that pop-up is the Spanish latte, and that's what I had. It was something different for me. Um, that's a hot drink, and that was also good.

They had, [00:02:00] um... Now, I think the menu will probably change occasionally just to, you know, keep it fresh, but, you know, you're gonna have your coffees, your cookies, your sandwiches, stuff like that. So, like, typical coffee shop foods.

Dalia: What's Spanish about the Spanish latte? It has an accent. It has an accent. I don't know.

Well, you have to go and find out and- Yeah, you have to go and find out.

Alex: Oh, I believe there's a little citrus aspect to it. Hold on. We might have to do that thing real quick. We're gonna

Dalia: Google it. Okay.

Alex: Yeah, we're gonna Google it. I'm gonna Google it right quick, see- Okay ... because I was there, and let me see if I can find the menu.

Okay,

Dalia: I'm gonna stall for you. So while she's- Yeah, that's fine ... while she's Googling the menu- ... I know you have your favorite coffee shop. We don't have time on this podcast to mention every coffee shop in Tampa Bay, so feel free to hit us up on Facebook or Instagram at thezestpodcast and shout out your favorite.

Shout out your favorite coffee shop, your favorite drive-through, and of course, what you order

Alex: Of course

Dalia: How we doing?

Alex: No, we're good. I'm still trying to look up what is a Spanish [00:03:00] latte coffee. Okay, cool. So Spanish latte is a sweet, creamy espresso based coffee made with regular milk and sweetened condensed milk.

Dalia: Oh,

Alex: yes.

Dalia: So. Okay.

Alex: Yeah, it was good. I liked it. 'Cause it was something different- Yeah ... for me. Usually, you know, I'd stick to the little matcha lattes or whatever, but I was like, "Oh, this sounds good."

Dalia: Yeah, and what I like about Water Street is the ambiance.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: Because I feel like coffee tastes different depending on where you're drinking it, you know?

Yeah, yeah. Like, if you're drinking it at work or on your commute- ... that's different than if you're, like, strolling with your tiny dog down Water Street during, like- 'Cause you

Alex: can actually enjoy it ...

Dalia: on, like, a weekend.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: Yeah.

Alex: You have nowhere to be. You can actually just sit and enjoy your coffee with your dog or your friends and just, you know, just do a slow Saturday morning.

Dalia: Perfect.

Alex: And that's what I like to do.

Dalia: Okay. I love that. Any other recommendations?

Alex: Oh, I think I mentioned [00:04:00] Blind Tiger, friend to the show. Yes. Um, they actually just opened a new location downtown, downtown Tampa, of course. I think it's, like, their ninth location, so they are blowing up.

Dalia: I feel like it's been a long time coming because of course we have the Ybor location.

There's one in the Brandon Mall. Of course. It's so good. Yeah. Yes, and the story, I mean, these guys came from Panama, I believe.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: And they're just killing it.

Alex: Yeah.

Dalia: So amazing. Blind Tiger was a, uh, a code name for a speakeasy back in the early days of Tampa, so it's got that little nod to Tampa history, and great menu, great food, great drinks, great people.

Alex: Yeah. Oh, also, i- uh, first Friday at Blind Tiger, they have plant bingo, and so that's a fun time.

Dalia: Okay, I know you played plant

Alex: bingo. I did. I played... Okay, so a little tangent. I played plant bingo.

Dalia: Which is what?

Alex: You're playing bingo, and your prize is a plant. It's different plants. And so, um, I went, and there is a moment [00:05:00] where I thought I won.

I did not. I did not. The plant that she said had a similar name to a plant that was on my bingo board.

Dalia: Wait, so the bingo board is also full of plants?

Alex: Yeah, the bingo board is plant themed.

Dalia: Amazing.

Alex: Yeah. And I thought I won. I did not, and it was a very funny moment, and, um, I got a sticker out of it. Aw. And she sends you home with, like, a little consolation, little, um-

Dalia: Like succulent?

It's

Alex: called succulent.

Dalia: That's cute.

Alex: So I have, like, three succulents I need to- I need to re-pot them.

Dalia: I have a ton of plants. I'll bring you a cutting next time I see you.

Alex: Thank you.

Dalia: Love it. Okay, so National Coffee Day, uh, September 29th. Mm-hmm. And there are plenty more deals to be had across Tampa Bay.

Alex: Yeah.

Find your local coffee shop. They will probably have a deal, so.

Dalia: Okay. Well, we're staying awake. We're staying caffeinated. Alex, good to see you.

Alex: You, too.

Dalia: Okay, I'm Dalia Colon. I produce The Zest with Alex and Andrew Lucas. The Zest is a production of WUSF. Copyright 2026, [00:06:00] part of the NPR Network.