

SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND OMNI AMELIA ISLAND, LLC.

This Sponsorship Agreement ("Agreement") is entered by and between the NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ("County") and OMNI AMELIA ISLAND, LLC. ("Organization") to organize the 9th Annual Fish to Fork (Event), overseen by the Amelia Island Convention and Visitors Bureau ("AICVB") on behalf of the County.

SECTION 1. Organization's Responsibilities.

- 1.1 The Organization shall hold the Event which shall consist of activities as outlined in the Request for Sponsorship ("Exhibit A"). The Event shall be held May 15, 2025 through May 18, 2025. AICVB may change the Event date(s) so as long as the Organization and the AICVB agree in writing on such change at least two (2) weeks in advance of the Event.
- 1.2 The Organization shall include the destination Amelia Island logo, as supplied by the AICVB, on printed materials and shall reference the Amelia Island Tourist Development Council ("AITDC") as a sponsor in press releases and any other media materials. The AITDC and Organization have the right to approve all materials and releases produced by the other for promotional purposes.
- 1.3 The Organization shall promote at least one Amelia Island Hotel on the Organization's website, and the Organization shall encourage attendees to utilize Amelia Island hotel rooms or lodging.
- 1.4 The Organization shall obtain all necessary permits, approvals, and venues for the conducting of the related activities.
- 1.5 The Organization shall provide all necessary equipment.
- 1.6 The Organization shall be responsible for all food and beverage sales. No alcohol shall be consumed or sold on property belonging to the County except where permitted by the County.

- 1.7 The Organization shall be responsible for all merchandise sales.
- 1.8 The Organization shall be responsible for all sponsorship sales.
- 1.9 The Organization shall be responsible for providing a safe environment for all participants and spectators.
- 1.10 The Organization shall provide all staff.
- 1.11 The Organization shall be responsible for implementing a parking system for the Event in a safe and efficient manner and in cooperation with the County, municipality, or appropriate authorities.
- 1.12 The Organization shall provide on-site medical personnel or have a medical plan prepared.
- 1.13 The Organization understands that it is an independent contractor and has no authority or right to make obligations of any kind in the name of or for the account of the County, the AITDC or AICVB nor commit or bind the County, the AITDC or AICVB to any contract (other than this Agreement) by virtue of this Agreement.
- 1.14 If the Event is held on County-owned property or if the County is co-participating in the Event, as determined by the County in its sole discretion, then the Organization shall, upon written request by the County, provide the County a Certificate of Insurance including one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in general liability coverage and listing the County and the AICVB as "additional insured" for the Event no later than five (5) days after execution of this Agreement by all parties. Certificates of Insurance and the insurance policies required for this Agreement shall contain a provision that coverage afforded under the policies shall not be cancelled or allowed to expire unless at least thirty (30) days prior written notice has been given to the County and the AITDC. Certificates of Insurance and the insurance policies required for this Agreement shall also include a provision that policies, except Worker's Compensation, are primary and noncontributory to any insurance maintained by the AICVB. All insurers shall be authorized to transact insurance business in the State of Florida as provided by Section 624.09(1), Florida Statutes and the most recent Rating Classification/Financial Category of the insurer as published in the latest edition of "Best's Key Rating Guide" (property-Casualty) must be at least A- or above.
- 1.15 The Organization shall submit to the AICVB a Post Event Report within forty-five (45) days of the Event.

SECTION 2. AICVB's Responsibilities.

- 2.1 The AICVB shall provide a link to the Event webpage on www.ameliaisland.com. The Event posting should include the Event schedule and details as they relate to parking,

registration fees, sponsorship, merchandise sales, concessions, and all other activities relating directly or indirectly to the operation of the Event (as applicable).

- 2.2 The AICVB shall share responsibility with the Organization for the promotion of the Event outside of Nassau County, Florida.

SECTION 3. Sponsorship Amount.

- 3.1 Upon the recommendation of the AITDC and approval of the County and pursuant to the acceptance and fulfilment of the terms of this Agreement, the County shall provide to Organization a sponsorship in the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$40,000.00) ("Sponsorship Amount").
- 3.2 The Sponsorship Amount may be paid in full to the Organization at least two (2) weeks in advance of the Event. Notwithstanding County's payment of the Sponsorship Amount prior to the Event, the Organization shall only be entitled to retain and shall have only been deemed to have earned the Sponsorship Amount after the conclusion of the Event and timely delivery of the completed and executed Post Event Report as required in Section 1.15 hereinabove and any required supporting documentation.
- 3.3 The Organization shall use and allocate the Sponsorship Amount solely for expenditures or obligations related to the Event as outlined in Exhibit "A".
- 3.4 The Organization shall be responsible for any and all costs and expenses in excess of the total Sponsorship Amount.

SECTION 4. Indemnification.

- 4.1 The Organization shall indemnify, and hold harmless the County and its officers and employees, the Amelia Island Tourist Development Council, the Amelia Island Convention and Visitor's Bureau from any and all damages, losses, liabilities, and costs, including but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentionally wrongful conduct of the Organization and other persons employed or utilized by the Organization in the performance of the Agreement.

SECTION 5. Compliance with Laws & Regulations.

- 5.1 The Organization represents and warrants that it shall comply with all applicable state, federal and local laws and regulations relating to operation of the Event.

SECTION 6. Waivers.

- 6.1 No release or waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be enforceable against or binding upon a party unless in writing and executed by the releasing or waiving party. The

failure of any party to insist upon specific performance of any of the agreements, terms, covenants, or conditions of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any rights or remedies that either party may have, or a waiver of any subsequent courses of actions or claims based upon breach or default of any of such agreements, terms, covenants, and conditions.

SECTION 7. Relationship of Parties.

- 7.1 The parties of this Agreement shall not be deemed joint venturers, agents, or partners of the other for any purpose because of this Agreement or for the transactions contemplated hereby.

SECTION 8. Term.

- 8.1 This Agreement shall commence when fully executed and shall remain in full force and effect until September 30, 2025.

SECTION 9. Amendments.

- 9.1 No provision of this Agreement may be modified, waived, or amended except by a written instrument duly executed by both parties.

SECTION 10. Cancellation; Rescheduling; Force Majeure.

- 10.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, if the Event is canceled for any reason whatsoever, and the Event is not rescheduled as set forth in Section 10.2 below, then (a) this Agreement shall be automatically deemed terminated, (b) the Organization shall have no right to receive or otherwise direct the receipt of any portion of the Sponsorship Amount, and (c) the Organization must refund to the County all amounts paid by the County to the Organization pursuant to this Agreement within ten (10) business days following written request by the County. The Organization hereby waives and releases any and all claims it may have for breach of contract or otherwise arising out of such circumstances.
- 10.2 If the Event is canceled for any reason, within ten (10) business days of such cancellation, Organization shall notify County in writing whether the Organization intends to reschedule the Event to a date during County's current Fiscal Year (October 1 through September 30). If the Organization timely notifies County of its intent to reschedule the Event to a date within the current Fiscal Year, County and the Organization shall coordinate the replacement dates for the Event; provided, however, County shall not unreasonably withhold, condition, or delay its consent to dates requested by the Organization. If the Parties agree on rescheduled dates for the Event, such agreement shall be made in writing by the parties and treated as an amendment to this Agreement, with all references to Event herein to mean the new dates. If the Organization does not timely notify County that it intends to reschedule the Event within the time period stated in this section, the Event is

deemed canceled and this Agreement is automatically deemed terminated as provided in Section 10.1 above.

- 10.3** Other than the Organization's obligations to refund the Sponsorship Amount as provided in Section 10.1 of this Agreement, which obligations are not waived by any event of Force Majeure (as defined in this paragraph), each Party's obligations under this Agreement shall be temporarily excused by acts of God, such as fires, storms, lightning, floods, confiscations or restraints of government (civil or military), war, terrorism, strikes or labor disputes, civil disturbances, or any other cause that is not within the reasonable control of a Party, and not otherwise due to any negligence or willful misconduct by that Party ("Force Majeure").

SECTION 11. Third- Party Beneficiaries.

- 11.1** Neither the Organization nor the County intends to directly or substantially benefit a third party by this Agreement. Therefore, the Parties acknowledge that there are no third-party beneficiaries to this Agreement and that no third party shall be entitled to assert a right or claim against either of them based upon this Agreement.

SECTION 12. Notices.

- 12.1** In order for a notice to a party to be effective under this Agreement, notice must be sent via U.S. first-class mail, hand delivery, or commercial overnight delivery, each with a contemporaneous copy via e-mail, to the addresses listed below and shall be effective upon mailing or hand delivery (provided the contemporaneous e-mail is also sent). The addresses for notice shall remain as set forth in this section unless and until changed by providing notice of such change in accordance with the provisions of this section.

FOR AICVB:
ATTENTION:

Executive Director
1750 South 14th Street, Suite 200
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034
(904) 277-4369

FOR ORGANIZATION:
ATTENTION:

Michelle Valle
39 Beach Lagoon Road
Amelia Island, FL 32034
(904) 432-1470
michelle.valle@omnihotels.com

SECTION 13. Public Records.

- 13.1** The Organization acknowledges that the County is a public agency subject to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and that the information and data the Organization manages under this Agreement may be public records in accordance with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. If a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the Organization is a “contractor” for purposes of Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes, then the Organization shall comply with all requirements of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. Failure to comply with this section shall be deemed a breach of this Agreement and enforceable as set forth in Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes.

IF THE ORGANIZATION HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE ORGANIZATION’S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT (904) 530-6090, RECORDS@NASSAUCOUNTYFL.COM, 96135 NASSAU PLACE, SUITE 6, YULEE, FLORIDA 32097.

SECTION 14. Assignment.

- 14.1** The Organization may not assign all or part of its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of County, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed. Any assignment, transfer, or encumbrance in violation of this section shall be void and ineffective. If the Organization violates this provision, any portion of the Sponsorship Amount already provided to the Organization shall be immediately refunded to County upon demand and, in addition to any other rights and remedies County may have, County may immediately terminate this Agreement.

SECTION 15. Governing Law and Venue.

- 15.1** This Agreement shall be deemed to have been executed and entered into within the State of Florida and any dispute arising hereunder, shall be governed, interpreted and construed according to the laws of the State of Florida, the Ordinances of Nassau County, and any applicable federal statutes, rules and regulations. Any and all litigation arising under this Agreement shall be brought in Nassau County, Florida, and any trial shall be non-jury. Any mediation, pursuant to litigation, shall occur in Nassau County, Florida.

SECTION 16. Entire Agreement; Severability.

- 16.1** This Agreement sets forth the final and complete understanding of the parties. It is understood and agreed that there are no other representations with respect to this Agreement and this Agreement supersedes all prior discussions, agreements and understandings relating to this subject matter hereof. In the event any part of this Agreement is found to be unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, that part

shall be deemed severed from this Agreement and the balance of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 17. Human Trafficking Affidavit.

17.1 In accordance with Section 787.06, Florida Statutes, the Organization shall provide to the County an affidavit, on a form approved by the County, signed by an officer or representative of the Organization under penalty of perjury attesting that the Organization does not use coercion for labor or services as defined in Section 787.06, Florida Statutes.

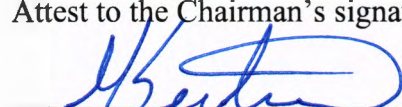
Please indicate your acceptance of the foregoing terms and conditions by signing and dating the space below and returning one fully executed copy of this Agreement to the County.

**NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**


Signature

A.M. (Hupp) Huppmann
Printed Name

Chairman
Title
5-12-25
Date

Attest to the Chairman's signature:

Mitch L. Keiter
Its: Ex-officio Clerk

OMNI AMELIA ISLAND, LLC.

Paul Jorge
Signature

Paul Jorge
Printed Name
Authorized Signer

Title
4/22/2025
Date

Approved as to form and legality by the
Nassau County Attorney:
Denise C. May, Esq., BCS
Denise C. May, County Attorney

Amelia Island Convention and Visitors Bureau

Gil Langley
Signature
Gil Langley
Printed Name
President
Title
4/21/2025
Date

AMELIA ISLAND

COME MAKE MEMORIES®

Event/Project/Program Sponsorship Funding Application

Please complete the following to be considered for event/project/program sponsorship funding. Attach additional documentation if needed. Be sure to review the requirements before submitting your application.

Each event/project/program host/organizer applying for sponsorship will be required to submit this Special Event/project/program Sponsorship Application. The annual sponsorship application process shall close on June 30 for consideration of support in the next fiscal year (October 1 through September 30). The application must be submitted to the TDC Managing Director by e-mail (billing@ameliaisland.com) or mailed/hand delivered to 1750 South 14th Street, Suite 200, Amelia Island, FL 32034.

For questions related to completing the application, please email Mariela Murphy at mmurphy@ameliaisland.com or call 904-277-4369.

Name of Event/Project/Program: 9th Annual Fish to Fork

Event/Project/Program Date(s): May 15-18, 2025

Event/Project/Program Location(s): Omni Amelia Island Resort & Spa

Funding Amount Requesting: \$40,000

Event/Project/Program Host/Organizer/Applicant: Omni Amelia Island Resort & Spa

Event/Project/Program Host/Organizer/Applicant Address: 39 Beach Lagoon Road, Amelia Island, FL

Contact Person: Michelle Valle

Address: same

Phone: office: 904.432.1470 | cell: 407.719.0269

Email: michelle.valle@omnihotels.com

Event/Project/Program Information

Provide names and contact information of all persons, firms, and corporations ~~with a financial interest in the Special Event/project/program~~ or participating in the control of the event/project/program.

Michelle Valle, michelle.valle@omnihotels.com | Theo Schofield, tschofield@omnihotels.com

Provide a detailed description of the event/project/program and how it promotes Amelia Island tourism, the proposed goals, objectives, and economic impact of the event/project/program to include dates of the event/project/program (including set up and tear down); anticipated attendance; audience demographic and projected overnight visitation.

Omni Amelia Island Resort & Spa will host its 9th Annual Fish to Fork May 15-18, 2025. The weekend will offer an unmatched foodie experience, with true dock-to-dish specialties in a fun and interactive atmosphere. The resort will welcome renowned chefs from around the country to showcase their fishing and culinary skills, leading up to a final chef showdown on Saturday night with a live vote from event guests. This event has helped Omni Amelia Island showcase Amelia Island's local flavor with a main highlight being the fishing excursion on Friday morning led by local fishing captains.

Attendance and Overnight Visitation Growth:

*Anticipated attendance at the Main Event on Saturday, May 17 is approximately 500 people (a mix of overnight guests and area day guests). Overnight Fish to Fork guests are frequent travelers who enjoy curated and elevated foodie experiences. They travel from within the southeast region, but also from destinations where the FTF guest chefs are coming from. In 2024, this event generated 107 room nights with potential for more. **We can grow this event by an additional 100 room nights** by expanding our marketing efforts and thus having a positive impact on the bed tax. The goal is to continue converting Main Event (Saturday) ticket-only attendees to overnight guests.*

Promoting the Amelia Island Destination:

Another great benefit to our destination is the media and client FAM. This allows us to welcome media and meeting planners who are not familiar with Amelia Island as a destination to help secure future media placements and group business. The resort's PR agency of record has additional hours of work dedicated to promoting Fish to Fork pre- and post-event to regional and national media.

Local business/community support:

- *Every year we secure fishing charters through Amelia Angler, located on Centre Street, Downtown Fernandina Beach for the fishing excursion that takes place on Friday.*
- *For the Main Event on Saturday, we typically source the "secret ingredient" from a local business. For example, in 2023 we sourced mushrooms from the Piney Island mushroom farm; in 2024 we sourced beer from MOCAMA brewery with whom we collaborated to create a unique brew that is only sold at our resort – Cabana Coast.*
- *Fundraising to benefit Barnabas Center – this is separate from ticket sales. Raffle tickets are sold at the Main Event, and all proceeds are donated to Barnabas Center. Over the past three events we have raised over \$10,000 for Barnabas Center from this initiative.*

Provide a logistics outline (including but not limited to location/site plan, parking/shuttle and traffic plan, security plan, sanitation plan, health and safety plan, and special needs requirements) for your event/project/program.

This is a three-night weekend event. Most events are hosted at the resort where parking is already available. Other events, such as the Fishing Excursion require private transportation (via cooch bus) to/from the Fernondina Harbor Marina and the resort. These fishing charters are booked through Amelia Angler, a local business located on Centre Street, Fernandina Beach.

There is no need for traffic plan based on the format of this event as it is contained. Security is managed by our in-house loss prevention team in addition to sometimes hiring NCSO for additional support for the main event on Saturday.

Describe in detail how the special event/project/program sponsorship funds will be used including media plan with advertising schedule; public relations activities; proposed creative materials (including but not limited to display ads, banner ads, websites, flyers, posters); promotional activities to support the event/project/program and the related expense budgets for the marketing activities.

Marketing Plan:

- **Social Media (\$25K):**
 - *Paid campaign targeting "like audiences" in feeder and growth markets*
 - *Boosted posts to target most engaged audiences*
- **Programmatic Display (\$20K):** *targeting "like audiences" in feeder and growth markets*
- **Email marketing (co-op and solo) via partners** *In addition to Omni Hotels & Resorts CRM tool (\$3k)*
- **Print advertising in select local/regional publications (\$3-\$5K)**
- **Enhanced public relations efforts to garner earned media pre- and post-event with our PR agency of record (\$24K)**
- **Posters, check presenter inserts, flyers, rack cards, monument sign (A1A), etc. (design and print) (\$3-\$5K)**

Budget

Anticipated gross revenue from ticket/package sales: \$170,000

Amount of support requested from the TDC and its intended use: \$40,000 to fund paid media for the event as detailed above.

Weekend event total costs: \$205,000 (does not include marketing expenses)

- Food & Beverage Costs
- Labor (culinary, banquets, housekeeping, etc.)
- Decorations
- Entertainment
- AV
- Chef prizes
- Equipment Rental
- Fishing Charters
- Custom menus for each event

- Programs and signage
- Welcome informational packets for all overnight guests, chefs, media and meeting planners
- Flights for chefs, media, meeting planners
- Main Event emcee transportation, lodging, meals, etc.
- Event wristbands
- RFID wristbands for overnight package guests
- Transportation to/from airport in addition to/from Fernandina Harbor Marina

At this time, we do not have additional sponsors.

Additional Information – Public Relations

2024 Media FAM:

Anna Hezel, Senior Editor, Epicurius

Lindsay Parrill, Food Writer, The Manual

Denise Castillon, Contributor, Thirsty Magazine

Maggie Horton, News Editor, Country Living

Carly Ziff, Social Media Influencer, @tastesbetterhere

Examples of earned media (PR) included in second attachment.

Event/Project/Program Host/Organizer/Applicant Signature:

Date: 2/14/2025



Internal Use Only	
Date Received	2/18/25
Approved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Amount	\$40,000

Event/Project/Program Sponsorship Funding Requirements:

1. Only one request per event/project/program.
2. Requests cannot be for more than fifty percent (50%) of total event/project/program budget.
3. Approval of sponsorships shall be considered as one-time approvals and applicant should not assume that funding is pre-approved for subsequent years or amounts.
4. A Post Event Summary Report must be submitted to the TDC forty-five (45) days after completion of the event/project/program.
5. All sponsorship funds must go toward the event/project/program itself and must not be used to pay commissions, bonuses, or other incentives for fund-raising efforts by staff, volunteers, or other parties.
6. If, for any reason you are unable to purchase an item or service as approved in your application, you must notify the TDC and request to substitute another item or service.
7. Any applicant found guilty of violating, misleading, neglecting or refusing to comply with the application requirements shall be disqualified from submitting any future requests.
8. Sponsorship funds may not be used for political campaigns, political parties, or for lobbying.
9. All events/projects/programs funded shall be conducted in a nondiscriminatory manner and in accordance with local, state, and federal laws, rules and regulations related to nondiscrimination and equal opportunity. Applicant and its event/project/program shall not discriminate on the grounds of race color, religion, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other protected category designated by local, state, or federal law. All events/projects/programs funded shall be accessible to persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and related regulations.
10. If awarded funding, applicant agrees that it will include the Amelia Island logo in advertising, flyers, posters, literature, film/video credits, news releases, printed programs, public broadcasts, promotion, and publicity if requested to do so. Both parties have the right to approve all materials and releases produced by the other for promotional purposes.
11. Any funds granted shall be subject to an audit by the Nassau County Clerk of Court and Comptroller or their authorized representative.

Omni Amelia Island's Fish to Fork is the culinary event of the year

The perfect trip for the foodie in your life

By Lindsay Parrill June 11, 2024 12:00PM



Omni Amelia Island Resort

If you know Omni hotels, you know the individual character each one possesses. Unlike so many cookie-cutter hotel chains, each Omni location has its own personality, complete with local charm and flavor. Whether you're after a warm and cozy (albeit intense) gingerbread competition in Asheville, North Carolina, or a lavish culinary getaway with a group of incredibly talented chefs in beautiful Florida, Omni has you covered.

From May 9-12, Omni Amelia Island hosted its eighth annual Fish to Fork event – a weekend-long affair where guests enjoyed their stay alongside award-winning chefs, dined on beautiful, locally grown, locally caught lavish meals, enjoyed a deep-sea fishing excursion, partook in all of the wonderful amenities Omni Amelia Island has to offer, and were pulled into a heart-racing chef showdown at the end of the wonderful weekend.

This is truly the foodie event of the year and one of the most fun culinary trips this writer has ever been a part of. So, make sure to reserve a spot in your calendar for next year's event.

Omni Amelia Island Resort



Omni Amelia Island Resort

While the lineup of impressive chefs and their unforgettable dishes were no doubt the stars of the show, the breathtakingly beautiful Omni Amelia Island Resort couldn't help but shine in its own spotlight.

Set on the tip of a barrier island in northeastern Florida, this award-winning resort takes your breath away from the second you step foot onto the property. Each of the hotel's 402 guest rooms boasts unparalleled, stunning views of Fernandina Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to the luxurious rooms, the property is complete with an incredible pool, a gorgeous 36-hole golf course, a plethora of wonderful restaurants, expertly-led local activities like kayaking and paddle-boarding through the marshlands, and a peacefully serene and luxurious spa.

It is truly a remarkable place to visit, whether you're looking for all of the adventures the Atlantic coast has to offer or simply relaxing poolside with a delicious cocktail as you watch the waves crash on the beach. Omni Amelia Island Resort has it all

Welcome cocktail reception and dinner



Omni Amelia Island Resort Marketing

The weekend was launched on Thursday night with a welcome cocktail party and dinner held at Walker's Landing, a beautifully warm and inviting nautical-themed venue located on Omni's extensive grounds. Overlooking the lush salt marsh and winding Amelia River, the venue sits on the water, allowing diners to enjoy both the natural landscape and exquisite cuisine.

This dinner was a traditional Southern crab boil, cleverly delivered to each table in large wheelbarrows full of steaming shellfish. Delighted diners had a blast getting messy and getting to know the competing chefs, who were introduced during dinner.

Competing chefs



Omni Amelia Market

Back row, left to right:

Omar Collazo – Omni Amelia Island Resort – Amelia Island, FL

Steven Goff – Tastee Diner – Asheville, NC

Front row, left to right:

Sam Fore – Tuk Tuk Snack Shop – Lexington, KY

Jasmine Norton – The Urban Oyster – Baltimore, MD

Jonathan Zaragoza – Birrieria Zaragoza – Chicago, IL

Saji George – Mesa – Jacksonville, FL

Fishing excursion



Lindsay Parrill The Manual

VIP guests of the event were invited to join the chefs out on the ocean to catch what would become the following night's dinner. Guests were divided into groups, each group joining a chef in his or her boat out on the open water. We all awoke at 5 am on Friday, ready to catch our fill and toting our gorgeous boxed lunches prepared by Chef Omar and his team. But while we were excited and ready to tackle the day, the weather had other plans, bringing in an intense thunderstorm to cut the trip short. Nevertheless, the excursion was a blast, each guest and chef soaking but smiling as we brought our fresh catches to shore – however meager they may have been.

MOCAMA Beer Company dinner



Omni Amelia Island Marketing

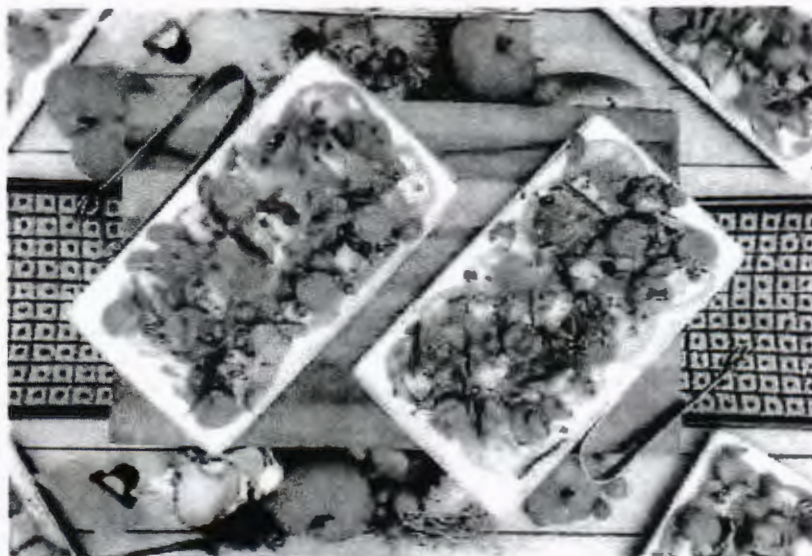
The only event hosted off-site, Friday night's dinner was held at MOCAMA Beer Company, though catered by Omni's Chef Omar Collazo and his team. Selections included dishes such as white asparagus and endive salad with kalamata, manchego, and a limoncello vinegarette and diver scallops with burnt honey, parsnip, guanciale, and black cherry. Though, of the five courses I couldn't get enough of Chef Omar's elk with pine and onion ash. Each incredible dish was expertly paired with a different MOCAMA beer, and guests were completely spellbound by the experience.

Lunch at The Sprouting Project



From: Amelia Resort Marketing

Whimsically decorated in a way that would shame any Bridgerton-themed garden party, Saturday's luncheon was hosted at the property's Sprouting Project – the resort's farm-to-table conservation program. Complete with property-grown ingredients, deliciously exquisite dishes, a backdrop worthy of a storybook, and even the property's own expert beekeeper, there was something to impress at every turn.



From: Amelia Island Marketing

I couldn't get enough of the divinely simple and perfectly executed heirloom tomato and watermelon salad, though it was hard to select a favorite among other choices like filet mignon with mango salsa, pepper roasted chicken thighs, and housemade push pops made with local honey and citrus.

Main event



Omni Amelia Island Marketing

Saturday night's main event was held in the property's beautifully lush Magnolia Garden, where each chef had a booth to serve his or her culinary creation made from the previous day's catches. The delectable seafood samplings included chowders, ceviches, taquitos, curries, and other delicious bites, each complimented with its own unique cocktail—a touch many guests obviously adored.

After sampling each selection, guests were invited to vote for their favorite dish before heading to the main event. The gorgeously green garden was peppered with even more beautiful food to feast upon, including an enormous oyster bar, a deliciously smoky grill with barbecued favorites, and even octopus "hot dogs" were nestled throughout the scene alongside a live band and a series of invitingly open bars.



Omni Amelia Island Resort Marketing

As guests trickled into the main party from the tasting booth reception area, the chefs were given just a few minutes to wrap up their individual tastings before being randomly grouped into two teams. The teams were to compete in a head-to-head, hour-long cookoff featuring a secret ingredient that had yet to be announced.

The suspense was palpable. Many guests wondered aloud what the secret ingredient might be when a familiar face took the stage. A representative from MOCAMA Beer – the brewery we'd dined at only the night before – announced with a grin that MOCAMA Beer would be the secret ingredient. Well played, Omni team. Well played.

Winners



Omni Amelia Island Resort Marketing

There were three categories of competition: Chef's Choice, the dish voted best by the chef's fellow competitors; Individual Challenge, the appetizer dish voted best by guests; and Team Challenge, the winner of the final cooking competition with the secret ingredient, voted by guests.

As someone who personally tasted every dish in the competition, I can truthfully say that each bite was delicious. But alas, the event was a competition and there must be winners, and these incredible chefs were deserving of the high praise they were given.

Chef's Choice: Jonathan Zaragoza

Dish: Smoked taquito with arbol salsa, jocoque, cobia ceviche, and salsa macha

Individual Challenge: Omar Collazo

Dish: Toasted sesame-encrusted redfish with hot and sour eggplant, puffed wild rice, and carrot coconut puree

Team Challenge: Saji George, Jonathan Zaragoza, Omar Collazo

Dish: Cabana coast-braised traeger fish with Southern grains and cucumber relish

The best part? Omni Amelia Island Resort will do it all again next year — 2025 dates to be determined —but this time, you can experience it all for yourself.



Earned Media Post-Event

Country Living Magazine

@countrylivingmagazine on TikTok

May 15, 2024

This was due to us hosting Maggie Horton,
News Editor at Country Living Magazine

20.5K followers

Maggie also plans to write an event recap
feature for the magazine.

2024 05/15 News Leader

OUTDOORS

Fish to Fort, bluewater fishin'



OUTDOORS
Terry Lacoss

The Fort Myers News-Leader's outdoor section is a must-read for anyone who loves the outdoors. It's a place where you can find out about the latest in outdoor gear, fishing techniques, and more. The section is written by a team of experts who know their way around the outdoors. It's a place where you can find out about the latest in outdoor gear, fishing techniques, and more. The section is written by a team of experts who know their way around the outdoors.

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Owner Stewart prepares food while Collins prepares the evening recipe during last week's Fish to Fork event.

The event was a success, with many people attending and enjoying the food and the view.

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Earned Media Post-Event

Fernandina Beach News-Leader

May 15, 2024

Print Readership: 35,000

UVM: 5,520

Terry Lacoss, owner of Amelia Angler

Amelia Angler is the company used for the Fish to Fork fishing excursion on Friday morning.

MORE TO COME!