

2026

SARASOTA • MANATEE ORIGINALS

FORKS & CORKS

Food and Wine Festival



Sponsorship 2026

ABOUT FORKS & CORKS

In 2008, Forks & Corks was created as an engaging showcase of the enormous talents of our area’s locally-owned restaurants, highlighted by an esteemed cast of visiting winery owners and winemakers from literally all over the world. It is considered one of the area’s biggest social celebrations of the year.

The 19th Annual Forks & Corks Food and Wine Festival returns to January in 2026 with a multi-day menu of events, ranging from the always popular University Master Classes, and a bountiful selection of Wine Dinners from which to choose. Plans for 2026 also include the famous Grand

Tasting at The Ringling Museum of Art and Monday’s Trade Tasting, exclusively available for local industry professionals.

Forks & Corks Food and Wine Festival is hosted by the Sarasota-Manatee Originals and is our organization’s primary annual fundraiser, bringing critical marketing dollars to promote dining in local, independently-owned restaurants and encouraging locals and visitors to our area to always “Eat Like A Local.”

Please mark your calendars for January 22-26, 2026 and plan to attend this world-class weekend of food, wine and fun.

Event	Attendance	
Winemaker Dinners & Events	1000 in 2025	
University Master Classes	250 in 2025	
Grand Tasting	1,400 in 2025	
Trade Tasting	500 in 2025	
Retail Tastings	550 in 2025	

The 2026 Forks & Corks Food and Wine Festival attendance and guest capacities are subject to change based on venue regulations and local government mandates.

BE INVOLVED IN ONE OF THE TOP FOOD AND WINE FESTIVALS IN FLORIDA: JANUARY 2026



F&C ONLINE FOOD AND WINE AUCTION
MONDAY JANUARY 19 - SUNDAY JANUARY 25



WINEMAKER DINNERS & EVENTS
THURSDAY JANUARY 22 - MONDAY JANUARY 26



RETAIL TASTING EVENTS
SATURDAY JANUARY 24



UNIVERSITY MASTER CLASSES
SATURDAY JANUARY 24



THE GRAND TASTING
SUNDAY JANUARY 25

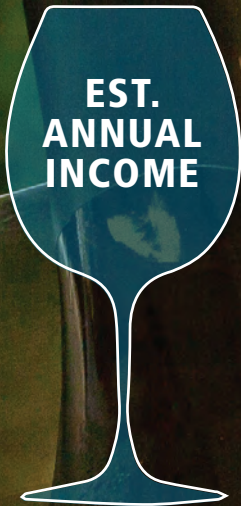
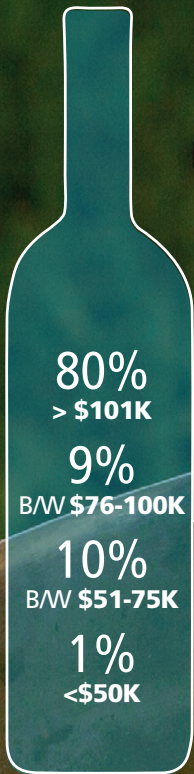


THE TRADE TASTING
MONDAY JANUARY 26

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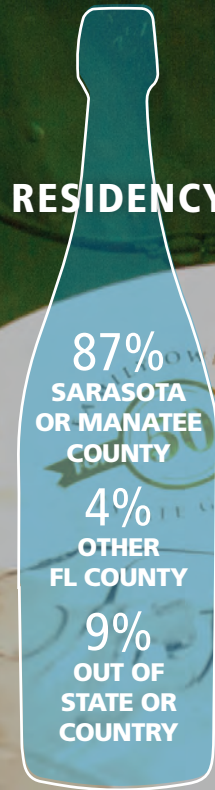
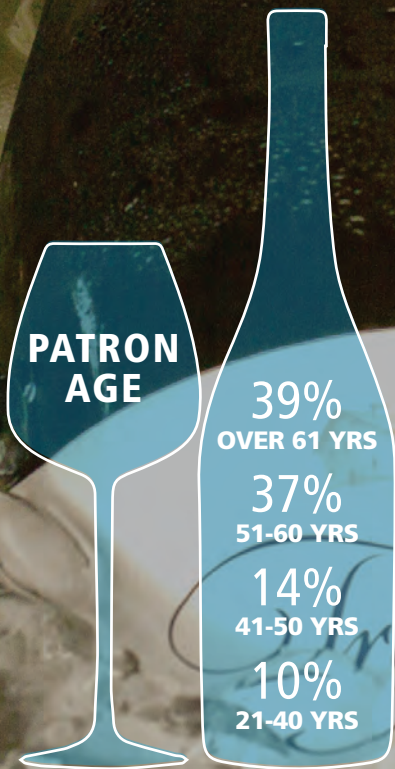
TARGET OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

PATRON DEMOGRAPHICS BASED ON 2025 SURVEY RESULTS



FORKS & CORKS BY THE NUMBERS*

The Grand Tasting Ticket Sell Out	< 5 min.
Participating Restaurants	> 45
Wineries Represented	> 80
Wines Poured	> 350
Festival Program Books	> 2,000
5 – Day Festival Attendance	> 4,000
Audience Impressions	> 11 million





FORKS & CORKS *Seen and Heard*

The Forks Corks Food and Wine Festival 2025 targeted media campaign resulted in over 5 million impressions! The community heard about Forks&Corks through a variety of print, broadcast and digital outlets as a result of an integrated public relations campaign.

"In 2008, Forks & Corks was designed as a fun and engaging showcase of the enormous talents of our area's locally-owned restaurants, highlighted by an esteemed cast of visiting winery owners and winemakers from literally all over the world. It is considered one of the area's biggest socials of the year. Now in its 16th season, the multi-day Forks & Corks epicurean event is well established as the area's premier food and wine festival and tickets will sell out fast."

- **THE SCOUT GUIDE SARASOTA, ANNA MARIA, & BOCA GRANDE**

"Forks & Corks Is Back!... The annual event is a glamour-filled series of wine and food experiences that benefit the Sarasota-Manatee Originals, a group of more than 60 independent and locally owned restaurants." - **SARASOTA MAGAZINE**

"Wine festivals are to Sarasota what Justin Bieber concerts are to infatuated teenage girls. Never has this been more true than when applied to the annual Forks & Corks Food and Wine Festival. Over the last several years the main event, The Grand Tasting, has sold out in just a few minutes." - **OBSERVER**

"Foodies and fun seekers, mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this one." - **GOWHEREWHEN.COM**





"One of the best things about Forks and Corks is the sense of community that it fosters." - [LAURIELIVINLIFE.COM](https://www.laurielivinlife.com)

"The flavor of this year's event means that those that have even the slightest interest in eating or drinking should plan to attend the (next) Sarasota/Manatees Original Forks & Corks when it rolls back into town. I came away hugely impressed with the Originals' members' enthusiasm for cooking with locally grown produce and seafood and you will too."

- [WASHINGTON TIMES](https://www.washingtontimes.com)

"One of Bradenton-Sarasota's biggest food events is back in 2023 after a 2-year hiatus." - [BRADENTON HERALD](https://www.bradentonherald.com)

"If you're interested in food, wine, dining or learning more about wine, then this festival is for you."

- [SRQREVIEWS.COM](https://www.srqreviews.com)


"Winemaker Dinners — These ticketed affairs showcase some of the medal-winning wines with perfectly paired menus at select Sarasota-Manatee Originals establishments. Led by some of the world's greatest wine purveyors, these intimate and inspiring dinners provide a rare experience for devoted foodies and wine enthusiasts." - [ABC ACTION NEWS, TAMPA](https://www.abcnews.com)

"Forks & Corks Food & Wine Auction Open for "Bidness" - [SARASOTA SCENE MAGAZINE](https://www.sarasotascenemagazine.com)

"If you don't want to miss the largest food and wine extravaganza in Sarasota — and probably Florida — (this) is the first opportunity you have to score tickets to Forks & Corks. CL attended the last installment of the annual event, and we can't wait to go back in January. After all, this three-day gastronomic and oenophilic festival showcases at least 50 local restaurants and more than 350 wines. The weekend culminates with the Grand Tasting, but you can also take part in the University Master Class (it's all about the wine!)." - [CREATIVE LOAFING TAMPA BAY](https://www.creativeloafingtampabay.com)

"Savor local flavor during the SunCoast's premier Food and Wine and Festival." - [EDIBLE SARASOTA](https://www.ediblesarasota.com)

FORKS & CORKS 2026 *Sponsor Benefits*

	Presenting Sponsor	Grand Cru Sponsor	Premier Cru Sponsor	Vintner Sponsor	Sommelier Sponsor	Magnum Sponsor
	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$5,000
Exclusive Benefits						
First Right of Refusal for 2026 Forks & Corks	X					
Opportunity for a Product Activation/Vendor Booth at the Grand Tasting ¹	FRONT CIRCLE	COURTYARD				
Industry Exclusivity	X	X	X			
Opportunity to host a Wine Dinner in Your Home or Business (with Forks & Corks Winemaker) ²	X	X	X			
Opportunity to host a Product Activation/Vendor Booth at the Trade Tasting ¹	X	X	X	X		
Sarasota-Manatee Originals Annual Business Partnership Benefits (12 month duration)						
Company Logo & Link on Originals Forks & Corks Website (On Each Festival Page)	X	X	X			
Access to Event Database of Ticket Purchasers for Post-event Outreach & Business Promotion	X	X	X			
Ad in E-blast to Originals E-newsletter Subscribers (est. reach 12K) ³	EXCLUSIVE	EXCLUSIVE	SHARED			
Festival Media Benefits						
Company Name in Festival Press Releases	X	X	X	X	X	
Company Logo in Festival Print Ads ³	X	X	X	X	X	
Grand Tasting Promotional Benefits						
Company Logo on Event Tickets*	X					
Company Logo on Step & Repeat Shared with All Festival Sponsors	X	X	X	X	X	
Company Logo on Grand Tasting Staff T-shirts	X	X	X	X	X	
Verbal Acknowledgement During Speeches	X	X	X	X	X	
Ad in Grand Tasting Program Book (2K Distributed During Festival Weekend) ³	FULL PAGE LOCATION CHOICE	FULL PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE	HALF PAGE	
Company Logo on Sponsor Page in Grand Tasting Program Book	X	X	X	X	X	COMPANY NAME ONLY
Company Logo on Festival Banners/Signage	X	X	X	X	X	SIGNAGE ONLY
Opportunity to Include Promotional Items in VIP Gift Bags	X	X	X	X	X	X

FORKS & CORKS 2026 *Sponsor Benefits*

<i>Continued</i>	Presenting Sponsor	Grand Cru Sponsor	Premier Cru Sponsor	Vintner Sponsor	Sommelier Sponsor	Magnum Sponsor
	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$5,000
<i>Festival Promotional Benefits</i>						
Dedicated Sponsor Post for Your Company on the Originals Facebook Page, Forks & Corks Festival Facebook Page, Forks & Corks 2024 Event Page, Originals Instagram Page & Instagram Story ⁴	3	2	1	1	1	
Company Logo in Master Class Program Books	x	x	x	x	x	x
Company Logo in Trade Tasting Program Book	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Festival Sponsor Perks</i>						
Sponsor VIP Tickets for The Grand Tasting ⁵	10	8	6	4	4	2
General Admission Tickets for The Grand Tasting	0	0	0	2	0	0
Early Admission to The Grand Tasting	x	x	x	x	x	x
Valet Parking for The Grand Tasting	x	x	x	x	x	x
Access to VIP Lounge at The Grand Tasting	x	x	x	x	x	x
Opportunity to Purchase Additional Tickets for The Grand Tasting during the Exclusive Sponsor Presale ⁶	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Festival Media Benefits</i>						
Tickets for University Master Class (of your choice, based on availability)	6	4	2	0	0	0
Tickets for Winemaker Dinner (of your choice, based on availability)	6	4	2	0	0	0

1. Product activation requires approval and coordination by the Originals within the guidelines set forth by the venue.
2. Costs associated with hosting Winemaker Dinner will be covered by the Sponsor (rentals, catering, décor etc.) The Originals will manage winery communication/arrangements and will secure winery representation for the event. The Originals will assist with promotion of event and will help with identifying prospective attendees (if the Sponsor elects to offer the event to the public.) The Sponsor also maintains the option of hosting a private event of the Sponsor's invited guests.
3. Ad deadlines will be provided by the Originals (anticipated deadline is November 1, 2025.)
4. Artwork/image and copy will be supplied by the Sponsor Company for all social media posts.
5. Sponsor VIP Tickets for The Grand Tasting do NOT include a \$150 wine voucher.
6. Additional tickets must be purchased prior to public ticket sale. The Originals will provide you with advanced notice regarding additional ticket purchases.

*We can also custom tailor a sponsorship package to suit your needs and your budget.

FORKS & CORKS 2026 *Sponsorship*

Partner with us!

Forks & Corks Sponsors reach more than 4000 Festival guests as well as international Winery Principals and leaders in the culinary community. In addition to generous marketing benefits, onsite exposure and exclusive invitations, each sponsorship package includes tickets for entertaining at F&C 2026 events.

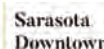


THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

PRESENTED BY



FESTIVAL SPONSORS



FORKS & CORKS 2026 Sponsorship



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR *Sponsor Branding*

Branded Promotional Items & Activations

Festival Wine Glasses	\$10,000
Snack & Wine Trays	\$7,500
VIP Festival Tote Bags	\$7,500
Neck Lanyards	Not Available
Wine Retail Tent	\$5,000
Wine Glass Tags	\$2,000
VIP Tent	Not Available
Beer Garden	Not Available
Champagne Reception	\$5,000
Photobooth (North Loggia)	\$2,500
Photobooth (South Loggia)	\$2,500
Warm Welcome Violinist / DJ Booth	\$2,000



*All branded promotional items will be co-branded with the sponsor's logo and either the Originals logo or the Forks & Corks logo.

FORKS & CORKS UNIVERSITY

Presenting Sponsor

Forks & Corks University is a wine seminar series consisting of several Master Classes (typically 4). These unique wine seminars are led by world-renowned wine industry professionals and winemakers. Guests will swirl, sip and savor as the passionate and accomplished panel leads them on a guided tour of wine from around the globe – no passport required! As a Presenting Sponsor you will enjoy the benefits listed below. Each seminar typically features 4-6 winery representatives (owners and/or winemakers), as well as a moderator who will lead the discussion in front of an audience of 50-75 guests who range from wine experts to novice enthusiasts. The wine shown is available for guests to purchase. Forks & Corks University takes place in the Michael's On East Ballroom and Michael's Wine Cellar and is the ultimate way to meet the brightest and the best of the wine world!

Forks&Corks University Presenting Sponsor - \$5,000

- Company Name Inclusion in Master Class Title
(Example: "A Passion for Pinot Noir presented by Your Company Name..." used in ALL event advertisement, including but not limited to:
 - Inclusion in all paid print or digital advertisement procured by the Originals
 - Sarasota-Manatee Originals e-mail subscriber e- blasts (22K unique recipients)
 - Sarasota-Manatee Originals website
 - Social Media advertisement including Sarasota-Manatee Originals posts (Over 14.K followers across Facebook, and Instagram)
- Your company name (or logo) included on all event signage
 - Welcome Sign
 - Stage Banner
- Full page ad in Forks & Corks University program book (choice between placement on inside front cover or back cover)
- Opportunity to host a vendor booth/sponsor activation during Forks & Corks University and to provide marketing materials and other branded items to event patrons
- Opportunity to address the Forks & Corks University guests during the introduction segment
- 4 tickets to attend a University Master Class
- Opportunity to purchase tickets for The Grand Tasting during the exclusive Sponsor Pre-Sale



Eat Like a Local

SARASOTA • MANATEE ORIGINALS

OVER TWO DECADES
OF LOCAL FLAVOR



More than 20 years ago, a group of visionary restaurateurs came together with one mission: to shine a spotlight on the incredible culinary talent rooted in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. What began as a simple idea—to unite and elevate locally owned restaurants—has grown into a powerful movement that has helped define our region as a true dining destination.

Today, the Sarasota-Manatee Originals proudly represent a diverse and dynamic community of independent restaurants. These establishments don't just serve meals—they serve as cornerstones of culture, connection, and local pride. Their success fuels the local economy, supports countless jobs, and gives back to the neighborhoods they call home.

As we continue to grow, our purpose remains the same: to celebrate and sustain the rich culinary identity of the Suncoast. We invite you to join us in supporting independent restaurants—here and wherever your travels take you—and always...

“Eat Like a Local”

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

MARNE GASTON

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941.365.2800

FORKS & CORKS CO-CHAIRS

MARC GRIMAUD

President
Sarasota-Manatee Originals
Owner, Café Gabbiano

MICHAEL HARB

Event Co-Chair
Treasurer,
Sarasota-Manatee Originals
Partner, Systhays, LLC

MICHAEL KLAUBER

Event Co-Chair
Founding President
Sarasota-Manatee Originals
Co-Proprietor, Michael's On East

For more information on Forks & Corks, visit: eatlikealocal.com/forksandcorks

(Exclusive) Winemaker information and registration: eatlikealocal.com/for-wineries

ANNA MARIA ISLAND

Beach House Waterfront Restaurant
Blue Marlin Seafood
The Château Anna Maria
The Feast Restaurant
Gulf Drive Café and Kokonut Hut
Sandbar Seafood & Spirits
The Waterfront Restaurant & Craft Bar

BRADENTON

The Breakfast Company
Icon Eatery & Bar - Legacy Hotel
The Feast Restaurant
Mattison's Riverwalk Grille
Mean Deans Local Kitchen
Michael John's
Ortygia Restaurant
Taverna Toscana

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA

1592 Wood Fired Kitchen & Cocktails
Amore Restaurant
Arts & Central
Bevardi's Salute! Restaurant
Brick's Smoked Meats

Cuba 1958

Drunken Poet Café
Duval's Fresh. Local. Seafood.
El Melvin Cocina Mexicana
element: steak.seafood.pasta
Indigenous
Jack Dusty - The Ritz Carlton, Sarasota

KOJO

MADE Restaurant
Marcel
Mattison's City Grille
Rose & Ivy
Sage
Station 400
Tsunami Sushi & Hibachi
Tzeva - Art Ovation Hotel

LAKELWOOD RANCH & UTC

The Breakfast Company - UTC
Cassariano Italian Eatery
JPAN Sushi & Grill - UTC
Korê Steakhouse
mi Pueblo El Restaurante Mexicano
& Cantina - University
Station 400

LONGBOAT KEY

Euphemia Haye & The Haye Loft
Harry's Continental Kitchens
Mar Vista Dockside Restaurant & Pub

PALMETTO

Riverhouse Waterfront Restaurant

SARASOTA

The 1818 Grill
Adeline
Bistro - Sarasota Art Musum
The Breakfast Company
JPAN Sushi & Grill - Siesta Row
Kolucan Mexican Bar and Grill
Lox & Egg Bagel Company
Lucky 8
Mattison's Forty-One
mi Pueblo El Restaurante Mexicano
& Cantina - Bee Ridge
Michael's On East
The Original Egg
Pacific Rim
The Ringling Grillroom
Roessler's Restaurant

Reyna's Taqueria
Stottlemeyer's Smokehouse

SIESTA KEY

Café Gabbiano
Clayton's Siesta Grille
Lobster Pot
Miguel's Restaurant
Ophelia's On The Bay
Village Café

ST. ARMANDS CIRCLE

Le Colonne Restaurant

VENICE / NOKOMIS

British Open Pub
Café Venice Restaurant & Bar
Cassariano Italian Eatery
Chaz 51 Steakhouse
Crow's Nest Restaurant & Marina
Fins at Sharky's
Gold Rush BBQ
mi Pueblo El Restaurante Mexicano
& Cantina - Venice
Paradise Grill
Pop's Sunset Grill