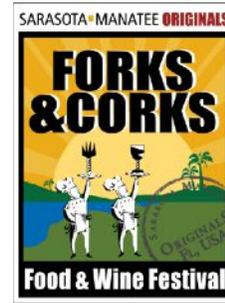


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Foodies Enjoy Special Overnight Rates for Forks & Corks Food & Wine Festival

Overnight Rates Starting at \$125 per Night during Annual Forks & Corks

SARASOTA, Fla. (Dec. 5, 2017) - Visitors heading to Florida's West Coast for the annual Forks & Corks Food & Wine Festival (Jan. 26-28, 2018) may take advantage of special rates at participating hotels and resorts, with nightly rates starting at just \$125. Seven accommodators are offering special pricing, including Aloft Sarasota, Hotel Indigo Sarasota, Hyatt Regency Sarasota, Lido Beach Resort, The Resort at Longboat Key Club, The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota and The Westin Sarasota. Detailed offers are available at EatLikeALocal.com.

A highly anticipated event, the 11th Annual Forks & Corks Food & Wine Festival kicks off Jan. 26, 2018 and continues at various venues throughout Sarasota and Manatee counties until Jan. 28. Presented by the Sarasota-Manatee Originals, this premier food and wine extravaganza features top-of-class wines, celebrity winemakers, and cuisine from over 50 of the finest independently owned local restaurants on the SunCoast. Forks & Corks includes more than 25 tasting experiences, including winemaker dinners, retail tastings, a trade tasting, educational sessions, and the Grand Tasting event.

Tickets to the winemaker dinners will be available later this month. Tickets are sold through individual restaurants, however there will be a complete list of all winemaker dinners on The Originals' website, EatLikeALocal.com. These ticketed affairs showcase some of the medal-winning wines with perfectly paired menus at select 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. Winemaker Dinners take place Jan. 25-27, 2018.

An area-wide event, this year's sponsors include Suncoast Porsche and Audi Sarasota (Presenting Sponsor), Willis Smith Construction, Admiral Travel International, Icard Merrill, Design Works, Sweet Sparkman Architects, RBC Wealth Management, CenterState Bank, PGT Technologies, Art Ovation Hotel, Atlas Insurance, and Palmer Accounting Group, P.A.

For more information on Forks & Corks or to make hotel reservations, visit EatLikeALocal.com. Follow Forks & Corks on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/forksandcorks).

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About Sarasota-Manatee Originals

The Sarasota-Manatee Originals are a diverse collection of 60 award-winning, independent restaurants with a shared passion for outstanding dining experiences and commitment to the community. Each "Original" restaurant is known for its inventive use of the best ingredients to prepare dishes that embody the flavor, color and culture of Florida's west coast. Forks & Corks is the organization's major annual fundraiser.