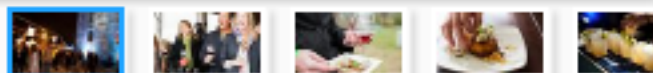


Charleston's biggest festival showcases local landmarks

Eric Grossman, Special for USA TODAY 6:33 p.m. EST February 26, 2014



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The ninth annual **BB&T Charleston Wine + Food Festival** will be the biggest edition yet, taking place March 6-9 in and around the Holy City. The non-profit festival brings together the region's culinary heavyweights alongside some of the country's most lauded chefs, artisan producers, winemakers and mixologists. The 2013 event attracted more than 23,000 attendees, more than a third of whom came from outside of the Charleston area.

Amid the dizzying array of dinners, seminars, tastings and parties, the fulcrum of the festival is the bigger-than-ever **culinary village**, where attendees can experience the grand tasting tent (40-plus food and beverage vendors from around the country), celebrity demo kitchen, Southern Foodways Alliance culinary hub, outdoor grilling area and a new open-air artisan market.

Beyond an impressive assortment of chefs and personalities (Andy Ricker, Nancy Silverton, Charleston's own Sean Brock), many consider the star of the festival to be Charleston itself — the historic city provides a variety of atmospheric event spaces such as the Old City Jail and the William Aiken House. The festival also stands out for its exceptional roster of acclaimed farmers, purveyors, and BBQ pitmasters, as well as its spotlight on Lowcountry cuisine through events including a **pluff mud oyster roast** and **Gullah luncheon**.

Since 2006, the festival has donated more than \$325,000 to area charities and scholarship programs. This year's culinary community partner is **GrowFood Carolina**, the state's first non-profit local food hub. Based in Charleston, the program connects area farmers with local retailers and restaurants.

SEE MORE: [The complete food and wine guide to Charleston](#)

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