



# 2016 EVENTS

## February

**4-15 Florida State Fair** Offering unique foods, live entertainment, carnival games and rides at one of the largest midways in the country.

**13 Sant' Yago Illuminated Knight Parade** Channel District and Ybor City come ablaze with floats loaded with bands and pirates.

**20-21 Gasparilla Distance Classic** One of the top 25 races in the world, this event consists of an 8K and half marathon along with wheelchair courses.



GORDON TARPLAY

**Bay Area Renaissance Festival** Specialty acts include jugglers, magicians, fire eaters, jousting and human chess matches.

## March

**1 BeerFest** Enjoy tasty and creative craft beers with the brewers who produce them at the Florida Brewers Guild BeerFest!



**3-13 Florida Strawberry Festival** The 11-day festival is famous for its strawberry shortcake, tasty fair food and country music.

**12-13 Gasparilla Music Festival** Musical acts rock several stages at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park.



**4-13 Tampa Bay Beer Week** Celebrate Tampa Bay beer culture with festivals, tastings, beer dinners and more.

**12 Rough Riders St. Patrick's Day Parade** Ybor City welcomes crowds dressed in green clovers, where beads become treasures.

## January

**1 Outback Bowl** Annual New Year's Day bowl between college football powers from the Big Ten and Southeastern Conferences.

**13-17 Florida RV Supershow** The largest consumer RV show in the country.

**14-23 Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival** Celebrate our diversity with music, cuisine and crafts.

**23 Gasparilla Children's Parade & "Piratechnic" Extravaganza** This family parade is followed by one of the country's largest fireworks presentation.



DR. WILLIAM CARSON

**30 Gasparilla Pirate Fest** Pirates invade Tampa Bay in honor of legendary José Gaspar. After the invasion, they display their treasures in a parade.

**THROUGH MARCH Florida Opera Festival** This international music festival produces and presents the highest caliber of grand opera.

**27 Fiesta Day** Ybor City showcases a 58-year-old tradition of cultural exhibits, concerts, arts, crafts and food along 7th Ave.

**27 Flan Fest** Contestants compete for the Best Flan in Tampa Bay at Ybor City Saturday Market.

**FEB. 28-MARCH 1 Gasparilla Festival of the Arts** One of America's top fine arts shows transforms Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park into a live art museum.

**THROUGH MARCH New York Yankees Spring Training** The official spring training home for the New York Yankees is located at George M. Steinbrenner Field.

**18-20 Cuban Sandwich Festival** Celebrating the "official sandwich" of Tampa Bay in Ybor City.

**26 Tampa Pride**  
Ybor City hosts a parade, festival, food trucks and more to celebrate the LGBT community.



CHRISTOPHER FELLIS

**30-APRIL 3 Gasparilla International Film Festival** GIFF is one of Florida's largest and fastest-growing independent film festivals.

**Spring Beer Fling** A nostalgic day of beers, live music and a beach-ball drop.

**April**

**10 Best of Tampa Bay**  
Savor cuisine from 50 local restaurants.

**10 19th Annual Festa Italiana** A true taste of Italy in Ybor City with more than 35 restaurants, grape stomping and cooking demonstrations.

**AsiaFest** Enjoy entertainment and food from China, India, Japan, Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

**Bern's WineFest**  
Legendary Bern's Steak House invites guests to experience extraordinary food and wine.

**MOSI's Festival of Chocolate** Florida's largest chocolate tasting has interactive exhibits and shopping.



**Tampa Bay International Dragon Boat Races**  
Local teams compete with paddlers from across the United States and Canada to be Tampa Bay's No. 1 dragon boat team.

**Ybor Aficionado Days**  
Celebrate the manufacture of the first cigar while you sample tapas at Ybor City's top restaurants.

**May**

**28-29 Sunset Music Festival** Electronic dance music festival featuring some of the world's premier DJs at Raymond James Stadium.

**Big Guava Music Festival** Top bands, carnival rides and food trucks.

**Cuban Cultural Fest**  
Enjoy ballroom dancing, live bands, dance troupes, art and food at this Ybor City festival.

**Tampa Bay Margarita Festival** Celebrate with live music, beach volleyball and fireworks.

**Brews with Attitude**  
Celebrating American Craft Beer Week with more



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MATTHEW PAULSON

## July

### 4 | July 4 Fireworks Celebration

Fireworks, music, food and entertainment along Tampa's Riverwalk.

## August

### Summer of Rum Festival

Try summer rum drinks such as piña coladas, cuba libres and rum-a-ritas.

### Tampa Bay Comic Con

Convention for those who like comic books, anime, manga, cosplay, artwork and apparel.

**WaZoo** The fun times flow all night at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo where guests can gulp more than 275 beers from around the world.



## September

**1905 Day at Columbia Restaurant** For one day only, "1905 Day" offers a special menu with the prices of yesteryear.

than 100 craft beers, food trucks and live entertainment.

### Sea Grapes Fine Wine & Food Festival

Sample wine and food from premier Tampa Bay restaurants at The Florida Aquarium.

## June

### Creative Loafing's Restaurant Week

Enjoy 3-course prix fixe menus for just \$30 at restaurants throughout Tampa Bay.

**St. Pete Pride** The largest LGBT pride event in Florida draws 100,000 people to downtown St. Petersburg for a day-long street festival.

### Through August Island Nights

Adventure Island stays open late with live entertainment, games and tropical cuisine.

### Through August Summer Nights

Experience Busch Gardens® Tampa as it lights up the night sky with fireworks, a music and acrobatic show and rides.

VisitTampaBay.com

**Tampa Bay Fashion Week** Celebrate the fashion scene in the Bay area.

### Tampa Bay Food & Wine Festival

This event showcases local wine and culinary excellence at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts.

### Tampa Theatre WineFest

The annual WineFest is the historic movie palace's biggest fundraising event of the year.

## October

### Brews by the Bay

Pour on the fun with more than 100 unique craft beers and live music at The Florida Aquarium.

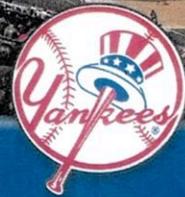
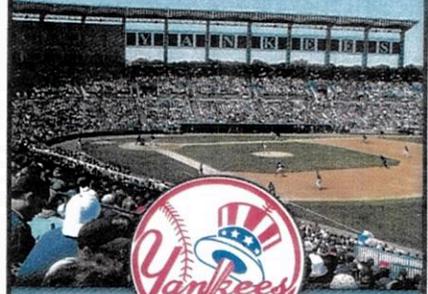
**Guavaween** Annual Latin-flavored Halloween celebration in Ybor City.

**Guppyween** Trick-or-treat at The Florida Aquarium and come face to face with 20,000 sea creatures.

**Howl-O-Scream** For 16 nights, Busch Gardens® Tampa transforms into a macabre maze of haunted houses and scare zones.

# The Season Starts At Steinbrenner Field!

2016 New York Yankees Spring Training



Be a part of all the action at Steinbrenner Field when the New York Yankees return to Tampa in March.

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2016 **EVENTS**

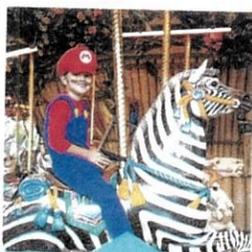
**NSRA Southeast Street Rod Nationals**  
See more than 1,400 pre-1949 hot rods at the largest street rod show in the southeast United States.

**Oktoberfest Tampa**  
Tampa Bay's largest waterfront beer garden features brats, live music and games at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park.

**Ringling International Arts Festival** Enjoy stage performances and museum tours with lite-bites and libations.

**Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival** One of central Florida's premier cultural events draws 20,000 film fans.

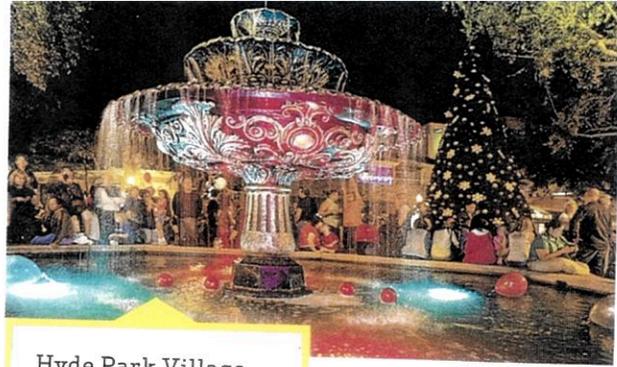
**Tampa Pig Jig** Enjoy great food, live music, games and an amateur barbecue competition.



**ZooBoo** Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo hosts the city's largest family Halloween event.

**November**

**Bourbon & Brews Fest** Enjoy country and rock music, bourbon, barbecue, craft beers and fireworks.



**Hyde Park Village Enchanted Tree Lighting** Join Santa as he lights the 30-foot tree, kicking off four weeks of holiday cheer.

**Coastline Music Festival** A Musculinary Experience with 12 indie bands, craft beers and food trucks.

**Plant City Pig Jam State BBQ Championship** Enjoy great barbecue, live entertainment and plenty of activities for the kids.

**Ruskin Seafood & Arts Festival** Sun, sand and plenty of seafood line the shores of Tampa Bay.

**Tampa Bay International Auto Show** Hundreds of pre-production and concept vehicles fill the Tampa Convention Center.

**ZooFari** Feeding frenzy of 50 of the area's top restaurants.

**Through December Busch Gardens® Christmas Town** Enjoy a holiday wonderland of wintery surprises and all things Christmas.

**December**

**St. Petersburg Bowl** Tropicana Field brings postseason college football to St. Petersburg.

**Holiday FantaSea** Celebrate the holidays among the sea creatures.

**Holiday Lighted Boat Parade** Decorated boats spread holiday cheer along the Hillsborough River.

**Ruskin Tomato and Heritage Festival** Highlights include a tomato cook-off and all-you-can-eat sliced tomatoes.

**Santa Fest & Holiday Parade** Visit Santa Claus and play in 30 tons of snow at an outdoor ice-skating rink.

**Victorian Christmas Stroll** The Henry B. Plant Museum brings Victorian holiday traditions to life.

**Wild Wonderland** Holiday celebration at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo features more than a million twinkling lights.

**Ybor City Heritage Cigar Festival** Celebrate the heritage that once made Ybor City the Cigar Capital of the World.

**Aqua Eve** Ring in the New Year at The Florida Aquarium with live entertainment and a prime view of the fireworks.

**New Year's Eve Fireworks** Channelside Bay Plaza hosts a free and dazzling New Year's Eve fireworks display at midnight.

**The Rooftop Eve** Hyde Park Village features live entertainment with a great view of downtown Tampa and the fireworks.