

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Event:** Emerald Queen Casino's Taste of Tacoma®

**Website:** [www.tasteoftacoma.com](http://www.tasteoftacoma.com)

**Date:** June 24-26, 2011

**Location:** Point Defiance Park, Tacoma, Wash.

This June, The Emerald Queen Casino's Taste of Tacoma® invites you to celebrate a 26-year-old Tacoma summer tradition, June 24-26 at Point Defiance Park. This year the festival is playing host to 32 restaurants and nearly 20 food product companies in addition to four outdoor beer and wine gardens and an outdoor covered dining area. The Taste of Tacoma® will again offer the Taste Shuttle, which gives patrons round-trip transportation to and from the event for only \$4, and children ride free! For those looking to save money, the Taste It! Discount Meal Ticket allows patrons to save even more money by purchasing \$20 worth of food for \$17- a 15 percent savings. Additionally, the Taste is offering four unique entertainment stages to complement all music tastes, a laugh packed comedy club line-up, over 100 arts and crafts vendors and the spectacular *Wine & Jazz* wine tasting event. A **no-pet policy** will be enforced in the food court at the Taste this year. The public is encouraged to leave dogs and other pets home for the health and safety of both the animals and the public.

Note to editor: For more information regarding specific events and activities, please refer to the enclosed news releases.

**Overall Festival Hours**

*Friday, June 24 and Saturday, June 25:*

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

*Sunday, June 26:*

11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Admission**

FREE!

**Special Features of 2011:**

**Taste it all!**

As always, the Taste of Tacoma® showcases old favorites and new flavors throughout the weekend! Notable newcomers such as Pho Cyclo Café and Ballard Brothers join festival favorites such as New Orleans Cookery and Billy McHale's to offer the public a selection of 32 restaurants and multiple other food booth choices. Greek, Italian, American, Caribbean and more- you'll find it all at the Taste of Tacoma®!

-more-

### **Just a Bite!**

New this year to the Taste is the Just a Bite! option which allows guests to sample dishes in smaller portions for only \$3.75. Just a Bite! options include crab cakes, beef, chicken or pork BBQ sliders and a s'mores dessert pizza! Taste more for less!

### **Hope Heart Right Bite**

Each year, the Taste has a line-up of quality restaurants offering up everything from gyros to piroshky. This year, all restaurants offer a Hope Heart Right Bite. The Right Bite is a menu item that is a healthier (less fat, calories or sodium) choice for consumers who want great taste with no guilt! With items like Chicken Gyros, Grilled Salmon and delicious sugar-free ice cream, the Right Bite makes eating healthier an easy option. Look for the bright red Right Bite apple on every restaurant's menu.

### **TASTE IT! Discount Meal Tickets**

Participants can receive \$3 off for every \$20 spent- a 15% discount on food and beverages. Purchase your TASTE IT! Discount coupon book for \$17 at the TASTE IT! Discount Meal Ticket booth at the entrance of the Taste while ticket supplies last.

### **Taste TCC Shuttle Save Time and Money**

Skip the traffic and the parking fees and climb aboard the Taste TCC Shuttle. The Taste TCC Shuttle leaves Tacoma Community College Transit Center at South 19<sup>th</sup> and Mildred and travels straight to Point Defiance Park. Taste visitors ride for only \$4 roundtrip and children 13 and under are free (up to four children per fare-paying customer). The Taste TCC Shuttle will operate on Friday, June 24, and Saturday, June 25, from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and on Sunday, June 26, from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The designated areas for the event will be clearly marked and the buses will run every 15 minutes from the TCC Transit Center to Point Defiance Park. Taste TCC Shuttle parking is FREE at TCC.

### **The Comedy Club presented by 96.5 JACK FM**

Showcasing the region's top comedians, the Comedy Club presented by 96.5 JACK FM will keep you laughing all weekend long. Come enjoy a free show and an assortment of available beverages. Must be 21 or older to enter. Located next to the Rose Garden.

### **Great Music!**

There will be a variety of musical entertainment to suit all music Tastes! Visitors can enjoy everything from country music found at the 94.1 KMPS Country and Blues Music Stage, to classic rock with KZOK 102.5 and the Emerald Queen Casino. The stage presented by KJR FM offers everything from R&B to folk to world beats. Also be sure to stop by the Jazz Stage sponsored by KOMO Newsradio in the Rose Garden adjacent to *Wine & Jazz!*

### ***Wine & Jazz* presented by The News Tribune**

Sit back, relax and enjoy yourself at *Wine & Jazz*, an enchanting wine-tasting affair. *Wine & Jazz* is located in the Rose Garden and features a variety of Washington wines. Proceeds from the event benefit the Bates Technical College Culinary Program.

**Art a la Carte**

Supported by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, this area will feature more than 100 juried arts and crafts vendors. Handcrafted items, woodwork, gallery art, photography, jewelry and more will be on display. Don't miss out on this opportunity to purchase items from this talented group. Located just north of the Midway.

**Funtastic Carnival and KMPS Team Up to Offer Discount**

Feed your carnival appetite and pick up a Discount Coupon at the 94.1 KMPS booth. Coupons are good for any 6 rides for only \$13, an almost 50% discount on full-ticket pricing. Redeem coupons and purchase carnival tickets at the Funtastic Carnival ticket window.

**Title Sponsor Emerald Queen Casino**

The 26th Annual Taste of Tacoma is just around the corner and summer has been a long time coming, so break out of the gloom and step outside. The Emerald Queen Hotel and Casinos is proud to sponsor another year of the finest outdoor entertainment that Tacoma has to offer. The venue, beautiful and majestic Point Defiance Park will be transformed June 24th through June 26th into a wonderland of taste and sound. When you visit take the opportunity to see us at the Emerald Queen Casino booth and learn about what's new and exciting at the Entertainment Capital of the Northwest! We have live Mixed Martial Arts, Sinbad, Randy Travis, Darius Rucker and more! You'll receive information on a dizzying array of promotions, including how to throw out the first pitch at a Seattle Mariners game! Just like the Taste of Tacoma, the Emerald Queen Casino has a little taste to offer everyone. We hope to see you very soon. Have a safe and happy summer.

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**Sponsors that make this event possible:**

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