



Keisha Allison, owner of Pan d Endz Jamaican Restaurant, is participating in Tamarac's restaurant scavenger hunt through Sept. 30. The event is part of a six-month long program to promote the city's diverse mom and pop restaurants. **SUSAN STOCKER/SUN SENTINEL**

# Tamarac launches scavenger hunt for foodies

By Rod Stafford Hagwood  
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Tamarac has cooked up a restaurant hunt for this month that will shine a light on its international mix of family-owned eateries.

The idea is to decipher clues that introduce you to 54 restaurants divided into four

### Hungry for clues?

Interactive foodie map at  
FlavorsOfTamarac.com

geographical areas spread over the city's 12 square miles. And once your

answers have been Sherlocked, then you leverage that to increase your chances of winning raffles.

"It's a one-of-a-kind, never-been-done-before-on-this-kind-of-scale event," says Lori Funderwhite, Tamarac's economic development manager. "We think we figured out a fun way to showcase our restaurants and have some fun prizes."

■ Foodies are asked to sign up at FlavorsOfTamarac.com. Clues will be sent by email, or you can play solely online.

■ The initiative runs from Sept. 1-30. Participation is free.

■ There will be four sets of clues, with each set covering a different part of Tamarac. There are about 15 restaurants per route.

■ Participants will pick a route and then start deciphering clues. "You match clues to the restaurant on the route," explains Funderwhite.

■ You can work on your own, with friends, co-workers or family.

■ Funderwhite adds, "You can also play virtually online or people can spread out the routes and timing so [they] can visit restaurants ... and still play on their own time through the entire month. Or [they] can order take-out instead, if they like."

■ You can add points to your entry by taking food shots and selfies and post on social media using the #FlavorsOfTamarac hashtag. "You can double and triple or quadruple your entries in the raffle," Funderwhite says. "Or you can simply compete ... and submit online."

■ The more points you have, the more

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Actors Martin Short, from left, Steve Martin and Selena Gomez on July 6 in California. **JAKE MICHAELS/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

# AN UNEXPECTED PARTNERSHIP

Making murder mystery series a process of discovery for Steve Martin, Selena Gomez and Martin Short

By Dave Itzkoff | The New York Times

Eliciting comedy from Steve Martin and Martin Short is usually a simple proposition: You just put the two of them together. Even as they looked back on their years of friendship and collaboration during an interview, they couldn't help falling into a familiar rhythm of affectionately zinging and zetting each other.

When Martin caught himself in a moment of self-reflection — "If I could talk about myself just for a second," he said ostentatiously — his onscreen partner saw the opening he'd been given.

"I wouldn't know it any other way," Short quickly interjected.

A few moments later, Short offered an overview of his own work — "Throughout my career, I have satirized narcissism," he said — and it was time for payback.

Martin replied, "Except for you, it's not a satire."

They can do this sort of repartee in their sleep. But what if you took these veteran entertainers outside their comfort zone and put them in a TV series playing creaky, washed-up showmen? What if they were teamed with a third actor who is in no way a member of their demographic cohort, like, say, Selena Gomez? What if the series were not only an arch sendup of cutthroat New York life but also a murder mystery?

This is the unlikely yet oddly effective premise of "Only Murders in the Building," which recently debuted on Hulu. The series, in which Gomez, Short and Martin play mismatched residents in a beaux-arts building, drawn together by the death of a neighbor, is a comic whodunit that also inspires another, more basic question: How did this show come to exist?

The answer turns out to be not a computer algorithm or a dart board but a development

process that played out over several years. Its end result is a series that drew Gomez, the actor and pop singer, back to television for her first scripted show since her early 2000s breakthrough on "Wizards of Waverly Place" — and cast Martin in his first continuing TV role ever.

Making "Only Murders in the Building" was a process of discovery for all three of its leads, one that showed Short and Martin that their well-honed routine had room for new tricks and new teammates, and also that Gomez could capably hold her own with her two seasoned co-stars.

As Gomez explained, performing alongside Short and Martin was an understandably intimidating task. "They don't know what to expect from a 29-year-old, and they don't know much about me," she said. "We were getting to know each other."

The central conceit of the series is one that Martin nursed for many years. He said he had devised it at a party whose host suggested that he write something for three other guests he described only as "older Broadway actors."

As Martin recalled: "The idea came almost immediately, that they lived in a building, and they all were interested in crime. But they didn't have the energy to go downtown, so they would only do murders in the building."

In his telling, Martin, 76, had no interest in doing the series himself until Short, 71, suggested they could act in it together.

"Marty said, 'You know, you're old — we could do this,'" Martin said.

But the actual path to their pairing on the show was more elaborate. For some time, Martin has been courted by TV producers like Dan Fogelman, creator of shows like NBC's "This Is Us." When Fogelman and his producing partner, Jess Rosenthal, landed a meeting with Martin a couple of years ago, they hoped for a memorable encounter with one of their comedy heroes but expected few tangible results.

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# Taylor-Joy has found her happy place

Actor enjoys being on a set — the messier the better, like for upcoming Viking film

By Glenn Whipp  
Los Angeles Times

Anya Taylor-Joy posted a brief Instagram video a few weeks ago during a car ride, her hair damp, her face smeared with dirt and her smile radiant as she laughed and announced, with a hint of astonishment, “Wow ... today was a very good day.” There were no words in the post’s caption, just a volcano emoji bracketed by two ice cubes.

Asked about the video, Taylor-Joy says, “That is genuinely, potentially, my happiest place,” and by “happiest place,” she does not mean Iceland, where the video was shot coming home from a recent day working on Robert Eggers’ latest movie, the Viking epic “The Northman,” nor does she necessarily mean a film set, though she will proclaim repeatedly she feels more at home working than she does at home or anyplace else.

Specifically, precisely, what Taylor-Joy wants to communicate is that her happiest place on earth is a movie set where she’s covered in grime and, with any luck, some kind of prosthetic blood, and where someone is challenging her to do something that’s physically hard so she can ignite the competitive spirit within herself and see how much she can endure. And that particular day in Iceland checked all those boxes, with the bonus of getting to swim around in the freezing North Atlantic. A very good day, indeed.

If this runs counter to the image you have of Taylor-Joy from seeing her in all those chic statement coats, turtlenecks and pleated skirts on “The Queen’s Gambit” or the perfect Regency-period costumes she wore in “Emma,” then you know her only from her work — which is all she wants to be known for at the moment, anyway. So that’s OK. But this is a young woman who likes to get dirty, so much so that when she was making the new David O. Russell movie earlier this year and she met the man who created her favorite brand of fake blood, who revealed this fact as he was applying the fake blood to her body, well, she just lost her mind.

But, should you need further confirmation, Nicole Kidman happily relates the first time she met Taylor-Joy, only at first she couldn’t believe it was Taylor-Joy because, having just arrived on the remote “Northman” set on top of a mountain in Northern Ireland, she saw a young woman, white as a ghost, dressed as a Viking, wearing no makeup, standing among hundreds of shivering extras.

“I thought, ‘Who’s that girl?’” Kidman said. “Then I take another look and, ‘Oh, that’s Anya!’ She’s in the mud, dressed in nothing, it’s freezing cold and the wind’s whipping around, and it was like meeting a kindred spirit. This is my kind of girl!”

Right now, Taylor-Joy, 25, seems to be everyone’s kind of girl. Her schedule



Actor Anya Taylor-Joy’s schedule is booked solid for the next two-and-a-half years. **ANGELA WEISS/GETTY-AFP 2019**

is booked solid for the next two-and-a-half years, starting soon with “The Menu,” a dark comedy set in the world of exotic culinary culture directed by Mark Mylod (“Succession”) and then moving next year to “Furiosa,” George Miller’s prequel to “Mad Max: Fury Road.” After that, she’ll reunite with “Queen’s Gambit” writer-director Scott Frank for the thriller “Laughter in the Dark,” and Eggers again in a reworking of the vampire classic “Nosferatu,” the latest collaboration in a partnership that began with her first “real film,” the 2016 horror movie “The Witch.”

“All my friends are always like, ‘What are you doing?!? Take ... a ... break,’” she says. “But the roles are too good. I wouldn’t be able to deal with it if I didn’t say yes. I wouldn’t cope. I’d rather just go for it and do my best.”

Where Taylor-Joy feels most useful is the set, where she naturally assumes the role of caregiver and advocate. On

“The Northman,” she took on the unofficial job of “cold cheerleader,” arriving for work every day, proclaiming, “Isn’t this amazing? I know we’ve been in the ocean for hours, and it’s so cold we all want to cry! But we’re making art!” (“I’m surprised someone didn’t throw me to the ground at one point,” Taylor-Joy says, laughing.)

She does this on every one of her projects, making sure everyone feels safe and sound and supported and loved. (“She seeks people out,” says “Queen’s Gambit” executive producer William Horberg, likening her talent to Cate Blanchett’s.) Taylor-Joy thinks this caregiving instinct comes from feeling unheard and unseen as a kid, a time when she was bullied in her self-described awkward years growing up in London.

“My favorite situations are when people are self-described weirdos, and they feel comfortable,” Taylor-Joy says, letting out the sound of a contented

sigh. “That’s all I want to do: make people feel like whatever they’re bringing to the table is a beautiful expression of their originality.”

She’s working, even when she’s not on set. Lately, Taylor-Joy has been learning how to drive a car like a badass so that she can do most of her own stunts in “Furiosa.” She’s a bit dodgy on the details (“I’m trying not to get in trouble!”), but it’s OK to say that she’s enjoying learning high-octane maneuvers under the tutelage of Miller’s stunt team. She also keeps filling journals with her own thoughts and those of characters she’ll be playing, along with lyrics to songs she’s writing. Melodies have long coursed through her head, and she really got into making music while shooting “The Northman,” layering vocals on top of vocals to create some “pretty bizarre” songs.

“I’m very big into lyrics,” Taylor-Joy says. “My favorite music makes you think.

I put a lot of thought into that, and that’s usually the aspect that makes me feel better. It’s the cathartic release when you look at a song and a poem and go, ‘Oh. That’s what that situation was.’ It’s not this amorphous cloud that I’m trying to understand.”

One of her journals, the one Taylor-Joy kept while shooting the Russell movie (she’s sworn to secrecy) contains the long, red acrylic nails she wore in the film (“that sounds gross, and I don’t care,” she says). Taylor-Joy keeps a memento from every character she plays. From “The Queen’s Gambit,” she has a hat, a couple of pairs of shoes and some really great pants that she can actually get away with wearing in her day-to-day life. As she wrapped “The Northman,” Eggers gave her a sword, knighting her with it as he presented it.

“I do love beautifully crafted weapons, especially from a film set that have a meaning behind them,” Taylor-Joy says.



Food is prepared on a hibachi grill at Chow Time Grill & Buffet in Tamarac on April 13. Chow Time is a part of Tamarac’s restaurant scavenger hunt through Sept. 30. **JOHN MCCALL/SUN SENTINEL**

## Tamarac

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entries you get in a raffle for \$1,000 in prizes, which include restaurant gift certificates, an in-home wine tasting experience for 16 people, memberships to the Caporella Fitness Center, and a foursome of golf at Colony County Club (with dinner for four people at The View restaurant).

“The economic development goal is to drive business to our small business restaurants ... to these mom-and-pop restaurants that were hurt by the pandemic,” says Funderwhite. “And to raise their profile, both in our own

community and in the region, for the excellent authentic cuisine in Tamarac.”

The scavenger hunt is part of a larger initiative that has been spread out over the last six months. Under the umbrella title of “Savor the Flavors Tamarac,” the promotion included an interactive foodie map, marketing help for social media, business workshops for the owners, a chef competition for the “Tastiest Appetizer in Tamarac” and a “Tasty Tamarac” People’s Choice Award.

The city boasts eateries from mid-price dining to fast casual serving Jamaican, Haitian, Dominican



Harry Sinclair and Christopher Alexander, owners of Butter Flakes Bakery & Grill in Tamarac on April 12. **CARLINE JEAN/SUN SENTINEL**

and Aruban, Argentinian, Peruvian, Colombian, Italian, Thai, Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian, Japanese and American cuisine.

And the program has paid off, according to owners such as Smoothie Jungle Cafe’s Luiza Faical.

“Twenty-three years ago I opened my restaurant in the city of Tamarac [and] this was the best decision of my life [because] they helped from day one,” she says, before adding that because of Savor the Flavors Tamarac, “We got new

customers and we had fun.”

Ejola Cook, a board member of the Tamarac North Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, told the Sun Sentinel via email, “We had such a good time with it. We picked restaurants from the Tasty Tamarac compe-

tion, ordering lunch take-out for our department. Savor The Flavors Tamarac introduced us to a variety of restaurants we never knew in our area. It was a fun way for our team to enjoy our work lunch and explore new cuisine.”

## ‘Murders’

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Near the end, Martin volunteered his idea for what would become “Only Murders in the Building.” After some cajoling, he indicated he might appear in it if Short did, too.

Though he and Martin are now inseparable peers, Short still had vivid memories of feeling inferior when they met on the 1986 Western satire “Three Amigos!”

Appearing alongside Martin and Chevy Chase in his first film role, “I was the cheap Amigo,” Short said. “Like, Carrot Top has

passed, and now who do we go to?”

Despite an estimable resume that included runs on “SCTV” and “Saturday Night Live,” Short said he had been awestruck by Martin. “For the first couple of weeks, I had to do an impersonation of myself being relaxed,” he said. But over the course of the shoot, he said, “we laughed a lot and played a lot of Scrabble.”

Thirty-five years later, the Hulu series casts them as Charles (Martin), a vaguely famous actor from a long-ago TV cop drama, and Oliver (Short), a once-hot Broadway director still yearning for another shot

at the limelight.

John Hoffman, who is the showrunner of “Only Murders in the Building” and shares credit with Martin for creating the series, said the crux of the show was not the age of its lead actors but the idea of “three lonely people who find a sense of connection.”

As Hoffman and his colleagues mapped out the new show, they were wary of making its three main characters too similar. Recalling those conversations, Hoffman said: “Don’t we want an alien in their world? The thing that we’re not expecting, that doesn’t make sense?”

Their solution was to

have Charles and Oliver forge an uneasy alliance with a third character, Mabel, a sarcastic young woman who isn’t totally forthcoming about how she is able to live in their building or why she is so interested in the story’s central crime. Fogelman said that Gomez was an archetype the producers used as they sketched out the character — and later learned to their surprise that she was actually interested in the role.

As filming for the series took place in New York this past winter and spring, Gomez said, she learned to stop idolizing Short and Martin as elder statesmen

and to open up to them in human, quotidian ways.

“They’re like my crazy uncles,” she said. “They were wonderful with giving advice, even just about my personal life. I’d ask them all the questions that girls ask, like, ‘So, when did you guys first fall in love?’ I’d ask them about boys and dating. They’d be like, ‘Well, make sure he’s kind.’ They were just so sweet.”

Given the unusual leap that “Only Murders in the Building” represents for each of its stars, they are all trying to strike the right balance between caring about its success and acting nonchalant about its

prospects. Martin cited an adage that he attributed to his friend and fellow actor Richard E. Grant, saying: “You put your heart and soul into something, your dreams, your high hopes. Then later you realize it’s just another title on the shelf.”

When Short heard this, he could hardly contain himself. “That’s an optimistic thought,” he said sarcastically. “You know what else happens eventually? You’re laughing, you love your children, you have a stroke, and you die.”

Martin adopted a tone of exaggerated grandeur as he replied, “You’re welcome.”