

## 240511 BRA Tequila n Taco Festival Saint Petersburg FL

Strub Park is used for different events. They are wide range of activities. One of the most interesting of the year is the tequila and taco festival. A great combination especially in early May which coincides neatly with the Cinco de Mayo festivities.



The event occupies the entire park. It's split up into two sections which I'll explain later. One of them is the tequila tasting VIP area, which has an entry fee of \$45 per person (the Orange area). The other is the larger general public entrance (in Green), which does not have tequila as alcohol, but does have other hard drink options. This is only \$10 but it's where most of the food concessions are located.







Come dressed for Sun! Its bright and the summer rays are almost here...you an feel summer coming. But today the wind is blowing nicely and in the shade its not too bad. Its good as well to come late and at night even better. But come with an appetite as there is plenty of good food to eat (if you like Tacos; if not then why bother).







The seating area is at the entrance and after you get your food, you have to oddly double back the full length of the park to sit in the shade. This was one disadvantage to the layout of the event this year. But there was plenty of shaded area and lots of places to sit. We went on a Saturday afternoon and it was not, completely full but well attended.







Each of the vendors has their own trailer or truck arrangement. They will have their menus displayed and I would highly recommend walking around first to see what's available. Vendors come from all over the United States as far away as from California. Each of course has their reported secret recipe for the best tacos. Some advertised that they are champions of some past for other event.

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It's a sad state of affairs when you were happy to see the drink prices are only \$12. Shocking when you go to a public sporting event and a 12 ounce beer starts at \$18. Even sadder is that there's a line of people waiting to pay that price. So I guess we are our own worst enemy. But here you can get a reasonably sized alcoholic drink for \$12. What a bargain.







As I said, there are lots and lots of choices. And do walk around because each vendor has their own recipes and concoctions which they mix into their tacos. There is seafood, chicken, pork, and any combination there of that you can consider. Some people like to go to the vendor with the longest line. But I think the longest line is psychological and all a vendor has to do is put some of his friends in line and everyone will join them. So don't be afraid to order from someone, that does not seem busy. These are all good vendors and really good tacos.







This is my granddaughter and NO that is not an alcoholic daiquiri. I got some strange stares from a lot of people because just across the way from where this man is selling virgin daiquiris there was another man selling the same container with alcohol daiquiris. I'm not opposed to having a different container sold for daiquiris to identify underage drinkers so that it does make it confusing.





They had a vendor with the Panamanian flag and I got all excited. I worked for 13 years on the expansion of the Panama Canal and thought it would get some authentic PANAMA empanadas. The fact the vendors were not for Panama at all, but from a different Central American country and they did not have the Panamanian recipe. False advertising?

And what other combination would go better with tequila and tacos but medical marijuana vendors. I stopped counting at about six. I think this is something that's coming to Florida and probably will pass it the next general election. I would support it because it appears that in the states were, it has been legalized it's no worse than



alcohol. And there's plenty of problems with alcohol. But right now in Florida its only medical marijuana.





As the day passed it was much less crowded and toward the water edge of the park event was the tequila tasting area.

This had an entry fee much higher than the general admission. I guess if you're like Homer Simpson, you'll just wander around and take free samples and won't buy anything. But each kiosk has free tequila served in small cups and then they actually expect you to buy a drink. I did not think it was worth the entry and in any event I don't drink anymore. But it's good that they separated the two venues to allow the visitor to make a decision as to what they wanted to pay for.







But we took our time and walked around the entire area. We looked at all the different combinations of tacos that were available. We ended up picking a vendor to sell a tamale, package of five assorted California tacos and a burrito. We took the California tacos and the tamale home and shared the burrito. It was plenty of food, nice and hot and very tasty. It was not spicy and you had to actually ask for this. In Mexico of course this food would be way too bland. But in the US people don't like a lot of chili on her food.





And what a surprise for dessert. Homemade donuts. They are battered and fried on the spot and the toppings are put on to your taste. So we bought a couple just to sweeten the pallets a little bit after taking the savory bites of our burrito. Homemade donuts are definitely different from the type sold commercially. They are chewier and sweeter.







So next year, don't miss this festival. Of course this is easy to do in St. Petersburg because the last time I looked there were 723 events in the year. If you do your math, you have a lot to choose from. But if you see this coming do attend. Spend some time, walk around, make a good choice and have a good Mexican meal. If you're on the mood the pop for the money and try some of the different tequilas.



Keep smiling!  
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