



New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation
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NEW ORLEANS JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL

A Springtime Musical and Cultural Extravaganza

New Orleans, LA – As one of the city’s largest events, every spring the behemoth New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival features more than 400 acts on 12 stages over the course of seven days. From jazz, blues and gospel to rock, funk and zydeco, the festival outlives its namesake with musically-diverse local and international acts.

Known simply as “Jazz Fest” by locals, this festival has grown from its humble roots in Louis Armstrong Park to attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors and being named “Festival of the Year” four times by Pollstar magazine. In 2001, Jazz Fest celebrated Louis Armstrong’s centennial and attracted more than 600,000 people.

With hundreds of local acts booked during the two weekends, festival goers can get a taste of the best jazz and blues in Louisiana. Regular performers include Neville Brothers, Kermit Ruffins, Fats Domino, Pete Fountain, Buckwheat Zydeco, Tab Benoit, Ellis Marsalis, Dr. John, Irma Thomas, and Allen Toussaint. Some of the big national and international acts over the past years have included: Police, Billy Joel, Santana, Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan, Dave Matthews Band, Paul Simon, Jimmy Buffet, Stevie Wonder, Dizzy Gillespie, Stevie Ray Vaughan, LL Cool J, Allman Brothers Band, Bonnie Raitt, Dave Brubeck, and James Brown.

And there’s more to Jazz Fest than just music. Visitors will also find second line parades and other cultural events, including Mardi Gras Indians strutting their stuff in colorful regalia of feathers, sequins, beads, and makeup. The arts and crafts marketplaces host more than 300 artists from around the country while Congo Square features paintings, sculptures, clothing, jewelry, and handcrafted artworks from Africa and the African Diaspora. At the Louisiana Folklife Village, festival-goers can watch artisans create handcrafted guitars and accordions, wood-carved ducks, paper-maché Mardi Gras decorations and more.

There is some great local food to be found at Jazz Fest as well. Local specialties include oyster artichoke soup, alligator pie, jambalaya, stuffed shrimp, muffalettas, crawfish etoufee, red beans and rice, shrimp and okra gumbo, cochon du lait, fried catfish, beignets, and more! Some of the favorites with the crowds include the crawfish bread, soft shell crab po-boys, and crawfish Monica.

Jazz Fest is owned by the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc., the nonprofit organization that uses the proceeds to fund year-round community development activities in the areas of education, economic development and cultural programming.

Tickets to the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival can be purchased at www.nojazzfest.com or by calling (800) 488-5252. A limited number of Jazz Fest's popular "Big Chief VIP Experience" packages feature a full weekend pass and VIP amenities. For more information, call (504) 410-4100 or visit www.nojazzfest.com.

The New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation promotes the city as a leisure tourism destination throughout the year. Annually, NOTMC's marketing campaigns include strategic print, broadcast, and Internet advertising and public relations. Web sites: www.NewOrleansOnline.com; www.NewOrleansMuseums.com; www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com.

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