

SUNRISES

NOT HIGH RISES

TOP 10 FESTIVALS

**AWARD-WINNING
BREWERIES**

THE FLAVORS OF
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

FESTIVALS & FOOD
ISSUE

Nº 1



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VERO BEACH | FELLSMERE | SEBASTIAN

Top 10 festivals

What do frog legs, pelicans, and craft brews all have in common? They are all festivals held throughout the year that connect locals and travelers alike to art, food, Mother Nature and yes, even beer. Festivals bring about a sense of community, where thousands of like-minded strangers become friends sharing in the celebration while introducing visitors to the unique personalities of Vero Beach, Fellsmere and Sebastian. A few [festivals](#) to add to your bucket list.

- **GardenFest**, A must for backyard gardeners who yearn for a simple or sophisticated environment. Learn from the area's best. Get tips and trade secrets while enjoying a day amongst colorful flowers and a variety of backyard accessories are also on display for this February event.
- **Hibiscus Festival**, In honor of the Vero Beach downtown historic district, recognized as the area's art district is the backdrop for the Hibiscus Festival Art Show. Exhibits show include: ceramics, metals, oils, acrylics, photography, sculpture, watercolor and wood. Visit [here](#) to learn more about this April event.
- **Indian River County Birding Festival**, The festival is a collaboration between the Pelican Island Wildlife Refuge and the Environmental Learning Center. Visitors will be treated to local birding tours, naturalists, night tours, bird art and will see some of the most pristine areas of Florida in existence in Fellsmere and Vero Beach. This festival is a wonderful opportunity to introduce children to the wonders that exist in the great outdoors, and bird enthusiasts will marvel at the many **unique species** that will be spotted along the way.
- McKee Waterlily Celebration, held at **The McKee Botanical Gardens** hosts the annual June waterlily festival enchanting travelers with colorful blooms while perfuming the air. The lilies also provide eco benefits for ponds. Did you know waterlilies provide a protective shade providing a natural sunshade for fish, while minimizing the growth of algae. With more than 500 blooms, this waterlily collection is the largest in the Sunshine state.
- **Pelican Island Wildlife Festival**, A March festival that honors the area's many natural resources and is the happy birthday party of the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge; the first national refuge in the USA dedicated in 1903. Visitors will celebrate a day dedicated to the environment, while embarking on pontoon boat tours, live wildlife shows, jaw-dropping photography displays and non-stop family fun in Sebastian.
- If you don't already know there is a boatload, pun intended, of golden treasures off the coast of Vero Beach. It's only fitting that a July festival, **Vero Beach Pirates Festival** honors and celebrates the discovery and history of the treasures buried deep beneath the seas.



- **Sebastian Clam Bake**, Fourteen years ago, a nonprofit organization started a November festival that would deeply impact the local community and continues to do so today. Six-hundred thousand dollars have been raised and distributed to local non-profit organizations impacting residents in ways that positively impact their daily lives. The organizers believe that exceptional eats, soul-stirring music, historical re-enactments and plenty of family fun make this a festival an easy way to give back.
- If frog legs and gator tail are your thing, then you are in good company as every January and for the past 25 years the **Fellsmere Frog Leg Festival** puts Fellsmere, Florida on the map. This festival has become a huge draw for visitors who want to experience homespun, Florida-fun, and of course locals who want to join their family and friends enjoying the best the sunshine state offers.
- **Under the Oaks**, Riverside Park is a wonderful gathering place and Under the Oaks is one of America's premiere art shows. Every March, eighty-thousand visitors descend on the park as Under the Oaks gets underway with 210 vendors: artists, painters, jewelers, sculptures, pottery and ceramic, glass artists and more gather to unveil treasures both small and grand. Florida Magazine, readers voted it the "best arts and crafts festival in Florida."
- **Vero Beach Wine and Film Festival**, It's the Sunshine state's first ever wine and film festival with Celebrity Cruises offering one of the first film festival cruises. This is a dynamic June event taps top wineries from around the globe, Vero Beach's swankiest venues and of course inspirational and some of the finest film making in the state.



The constant evolution of craft beers brings about a sense of experimentation offering regional flavors, original sips and new favorites. Indian River County, is becoming an intimate craft brew destination. Here are a few beer-loving festivals to try:

- **Craft Brew and Wingfest**, The craft brew effect seems to be taking hold in Vero Beach as more than 10,000 festival goers attend the 4th annual Craft Brew and Wingfest event at Royal Palms Point. The community is dedicated to giving back and this charitable festival benefits the Rotary Club of Vero Beach Sunrise. A pre-party event, craft brew competitions, live music, and a kid friendly pavilion, plus dancing water fountains keep active children engaged.
- **Shrimpfest & Craft Brew, Hullabaloo**, Another Fellsmere festival made for today's modern travelers. Succulent seafood and artisanal craft beers from local brewers in the area and top brews sourced from South Florida, make this festival a bucketlist contender.





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**INDIAN RIVER
COUNTY IS
BECOMING
AN INTIMATE
CRAFT BREW
DESTINATION.**





AWARD-WINNING
Breweries





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he breweries in Vero Beach and Sebastian are representatives of the destination; welcoming, community-focused and on trend. Indian River County is now a must visit for craft beer enthusiasts as Walking Tree Brewery was awarded Best Florida Beer and Best Small Brewery in the Sunshine state presented on behalf of 2017 Best Florida Beer Professional Championship awards.

- **Orchid Island Brewery**, Is a grove to glass kind of place. With citrus infused brews, citrus forward IPA's and a commitment to a family run organization, this brewery is unlike any other. The geographic area, climate and geology of Vero Beach brings about signature terroir (aka unique taste) not found anywhere else on the planet!
- **Pareidolia Brewing** Enjoy a pint in Sebastian. This unique brew pub and eatery invites guests to connect from the inside out as the brewery window is located behind the bar providing guests a window into the heart of the brewery. It's so worth a 20% tip! This brew pub is family friendly until 8PM where your four-legged friends are also welcome.
- **Walking Tree Brewery**, Takes home a gold, silver and bronze award. The medals represent best in class to include a gold for Barnacled Manatee Barlywine Ale, a silver for Duke Snider's Imperial Stout, and a bronze for White Talking Tree IPA – quite impressive considering the brewery has been opened less than a year. Other pints to try: Babycakes Oatmeal Chocolate Stout, Single Girlfriend, White Walking Tree IPA and Candyman Belgian Tripel, to name a few.



Food & Sips

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orget about chain restaurants at the oceanfront the area is proud to claim over 130 local eateries. Foodies visiting the oceanfront and the surrounding communities will enjoy a refreshing, committed, homegrown culinary scene. There are so many fabulous family-owned restaurants we thought to highlight a few that keep locals coming back and visitors enjoying the unique flavors of Vero Beach, Fellsmere and Sebastian.



OCEANFRONT

- **Casey's Place**, Step back in time and enjoy this window serve restaurant where customized grilled chicken sandwiches, belly buster hot dogs and fresh salads are enjoyed under brightly colored umbrellas in a backyard patio setting.
- **Citrus Grill**, A casually, upscale, traditional American-style oceanfront bistro. Not sure what's better the delicious five-course creative menu that changes daily or the dramatic beach views. Citrus, an award-winning eatery, is a top choice for locals and visitors alike.
- **Colbalt Restaurant & Lounge**, With craft cocktails and sea-to-shore plates this popular beachside eatery will have you drooling for coastal bites with ocean views. The alfresco fire bits and pool side bar, Heaton's Beach, offers a happy hour like no other.
- **Maison Martinique**, An alfresco setting, excellent cuisine and impeccable service, plus Country-French fare have all of the ingredients of the perfect romantic evening.
- **Ocean Grill**, The backdrop for a TV segment with celebrity Chef Emeril Lagasse's. This idyllic oceanfront setting offers kids and adult lunch and dinner menus that change daily plus an extensive wine list make this Vero Beach grill a must try.
- **Polo Grill**, As the name implies this Vero Beach bistro offers a clubby, masculine feel, with plush leather seating, sophisticated American fare and plenty of extras included in the overall price.



- **The Lemon Tree**, A favorite Ocean Drive breakfast and lunch hangout and a local's favorite, The Lemon Tree, offers an extensive breakfast menu and a tasty lunch menu with fresh vegetables and fruits, eggs and fluffy pancakes.
- **The Tides**, An award-winning restaurant with both TripAdvisor and Wine Spectator taking notes. Chef Leanne Kelleher brings her New York, Culinary Institute of America to the shores of Vero Beach delighting refined plates with just-caught seafood and freshly picked produce keeping menus simple yet layering tastes for an undeniable dining experience.
- **The Wave Kitchen & Bar**, Oceanfront brings a Cuban fare direct from Gloria and Emilio Estefan's Estefan Kitchen cookbook to Vero Beach. Amazing Atlantic Ocean views, and an open kitchen concept plus a cozy dinner party atmosphere delivers a top-rated dining experience that's not to be missed.
- **Waldo's Restaurant**, An iconic Vero Beach landmark, this rustic beach bar is a popular local hangout offering fresh seafood, over-the-top nachos, juicy burgers and mesmerizing beach view. Happy hours are not to be missed.

THE FLAVORS OF

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

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elcoming, charming and walkable the historic downtown district of Vero Beach is humming with activity. From their popular First Friday art gatherings to eateries that will satisfy your every craving. Here are a few of our top picks but when in town there are dozens more to enjoy:





- **Avanzare**, If handmade pasta, succulent pork chops and other Tuscan-inspired plates, wrapped in a clubby atmosphere is what you are after, this is the place to enjoy it all!
- **Blue Star**, Serves up the basics with a twist making entrees melt in your mouth. They also offer a full bar and grill. Reservations are required as Chef Kitty Wagner can only surprise and delight so many guests at one time!
- **Osceola Bistro**, Wonderful Alfresco dining, new American eats – if fresh-infused local ingredients in a casual environment is on your travel menu, this bistro is a top pick.
- **Southern Social Kitchen & Bar**, A popular place to hang out with friends who love hand-crafted cocktails, and craft beer accompanied with progressive southern cuisine with a twist!
- **The Crab Stop of Vero Beach**, Yearning for a seafood feast? Stop here for fresh garlic-infused Maryland crabs, seafood tacos, shrimp, lobster and of course crab! This is a place where butter runs down your chin and nobody cares!
- **The Kilted Mermaid**, Locals come for the funky vibe and colorful setting and stay for the great entertainment, craft beer and wine bar paired with excellent artisan cheeses and other light-fare menu options.

A UNIQUE HISTORIC FIND IN FELLSMERE

A historic restaurant that is in a category all its own is Marsh Landing Restaurant in Fellsmere, Florida. The building was built in 1926 as the land sales office for the Fellsmere Estates Corporation. Within four short years, the floods of 1927 coupled with the depression in 1929 shut down the corporation.



The building had many tenants from sugar mill executives, to a municipal building and even held prisoners awaiting transport. In October 1995, Fran Adams purchased the building for historic restoration. The building retains its elegance from days gone by, one of the reasons people travel to dine at Marsh Landing Restaurant.

This iconic, out-of-the-way restaurant will also have you coming back for frog legs, catfish, gator tail, fried green tomatoes and swamp cabbage; all are local specialties and a throwback to old Florida cuisine. Of course, modern day menu items such as hand cut Angus steaks, fresh Florida seafood and homemade desserts are also on the menu. Breakfast items to try: sweet potato pancakes and the Landing's iconic biscuits and gravy.

RIVERFRONT

- **Captain Hiram's Blackfin Riverfront Grill and Sandbar Beach Club**, Has become a not-to-miss Sebastian attraction. The Dirty Oysters, a unique blend of oysters on the half-shell, caviar and sour cream have visitors salivating for more. Craving traditional seafood fare, think peel-and-eat shrimp, fresh catch of the day, crab cakes and more. The riverside deck is as enjoyable as the tasty treats found on the breakfast, lunch and dinner menus. If you seek an island-styled experience, this is the place to be!
- **Crab-E-Bills Seafood**, Fisherman and owner, Crab-E-Bills, has been catching some of the area's freshest fish for more than 25 years. The stone crabs with homemade mustard and champagne sauce are over-the-top delicious. The restaurant is casual but make no mistake Crab-E-Bills is serious about delivering the best seafood: fish, crab, shrimp, oysters, lobsters and more.

- **Riverside Café**, Is a casual seafood eatery serving some of the best calamari, fried green tomatoes, plus they are known for their signature Bahamian Conch Salad. A fun place where beers are served at 32 degrees, a great way to cool down from the Florida sunshine!
- **Outriggers Bar & Grill**, Resides on a working marina nestled between the Sebastian and Indian River. A hidden gem and known for their shrimp dishes, they have some of the best and freshest chicken wings on the planet. Enjoy your favorite dish on the outside deck or dine at the indoor patio and bring the pooch as this is a dog-friendly establishment. They even let you feed the fish!

Let these pages be a guide to explore the many delicious culinary and fun festivals in Indian River County, Florida aka Vero Beach, Fellsmere and Sebastian. Please note, these pages reveal a broad overview when visiting the destination there are many more delicious sips, salivating menu opportunities and healthy food options to fuel your soul!

