

**Bernhardt Winery 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off**  
**March 16, 2024**  
**9043 CR 204, Plantersville, TX 77363**

**Cooks:** Must be 18 years old and over. Cooks must register and pay entry fees through the Bernhardt Winery website, <https://www.bernhardtwinery.com/tc-events/1st-annual-chili-cookoff-festival/>.

**ENTRY FEES & CATAGORIES**

Contestant Entry Fees- contestants may compete in one or more cooking categories.

- **\$30 Traditional Red**  
Traditional Red Chili is any kind of meat, or combination of meats, cooked with red chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients. Beans and non-vegetable fillers such as rice and pasta are not allowed. Preference is not given to either cut of meat, ground meat, shredded meat or cubed meat.
- **\$30 Homestyle**  
Homestyle Chili is any kind of meat, or combination of meats, and/or vegetables cooked with beans, chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients. Homestyle chili may be any color. Beans are required and should be visible in every spoonful. Preference is not given to type of bean or either cut of meat, ground, shredded or cubed meat.
- **\$30 Veggie**  
Veggie is any kind of vegetable or combination of vegetables, cooked with chili peppers, various spices and other ingredients. The use of meat and/or any meat by-product is not allowed. The use of soy and meatless “meat” substitutes is allowed. Veggie chili can be any color. Beans are allowed.
- **\$30 Pinto Beans**  
Pinto Beans must be specifically the pinto bean variety from originally dried (not canned) pinto beans. Pinto beans can include meat and/or vegetable ingredients. Pinto beans are allowed to be soaked or hydrated only as part of preparation but may not be seasoned or partially cooked in any way before the designated start time.

The category winners are all chosen by the judges and at the direction of the Chief Judge.

**People’s Choice Category:** All of the above categories that a contestant has entered is qualified for People’s Choice category judging.

The amount required for each entry will be 3 gallons: 1 qt. (32 oz.) available for Judge’s tastings and 2 ¾ gallons available for People’s Choice tastings.

Schedule for the event:

- 7:00 am Saturday set up begins
- 9:00 am Bernhardt/Contestant meeting with Team Leads
- 10:00 am Cooking begins
- 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm Judges pull
- 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm People’s Choice tastings
- 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm Public Tastings
- 4:00 pm People’s Choice ballots pulled
- 5:00 pm Winners Announced & Awards Ceremony
- 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm Clean up and tear down

## **REQUIREMENTS AND RULES**

Bernhardt Winery will provide a 10x10 cook space area for each contestant. Bernhardt Winery requires preparedness that each contestant provides a fire extinguisher and washing station. Bernhardt Winery will provide a central washing station.

Each contestant is responsible for supplying all their own tent, tables/chairs, cooking equipment, ingredients, supplies, and utensils. Only propane heat/stoves are allowed. Fuel must be the "single use" small canisters, 1lb or 5lb.

### **Preparation**

**No alcohol of any type may be brought onto the Bernhardt Winery premises except as an ingredient of the official entry recipe. Please pre-measure, label, and carry in only what is required for cooking.**

- A. Meat may be pre-cut or ground, but MAY NOT be pre-cooked, treated, seasoned, or marinated in any manner. Preference is not given to either cut meat, ground meat, shredded meat, or cubed meat.
- B. No ingredient may be pre-cooked in any way prior to the commencement of the official cooking time. The only exceptions are commercially canned vegetables, sauces, pepper sauces, liquids, seasoning pastes, and meat substitutes.
- C. Grinding and/or mixing of dry spices is allowed prior to the event. All other ingredients must be prepared, added, and/or chopped on-site during the preparation period.
- D. The preparation period begins when cooks arrive on-site for competitions. Only prepping allowed at this time – NO COOKING OF CHILI.
- E. Garnishes are not allowed. Rule of thumb- if an ingredient found on the top layer of an entry bowl cannot also be found mixed throughout the entire bowl, it is a garnish and is not permitted.
- F. All ingredients must be sourced to a licensed food manufacturer, wholesale supplier or retail store. All ingredients are subject to inspection at any time, by Bernhardt Winery representatives or local and state officials.
- G. All food - whether stored, resting or cooking - must always be maintained at food-safe temperatures. Food temperatures are subject to inspection at any time by Bernhardt Winery representatives or local/state officials.
- H. All food handling, preparation and serving must comply with all local and state guidelines, policies, and rules.
- I. Failure to abide by any of the above, in the unilateral and unfettered opinion of the Chief Judge, will result in immediate disqualification from the cook-off.

### **Cooking**

If multiple cooks/entries share one booth, each contestant must be prepared to present their own People's Choice – NO COMBINING OF POTS. The Bernhardt Winery or Chief Judge has the right to disqualify any contestant who does not prepare the required quantity of People's Choice.

A representative of the cook-off team will participate in the designated "Contestant Meeting". At this meeting instructions will be given and questions answered.

The cooking period allowed is 3 to 3.5 hours, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. Judges Pull must be presented no later than 1:30 pm or will not be accepted for judging. Cooking during the entire cooking period is at the sole discretion of the contestant.

## **JUDGING AND PRIZES**

For each category a contestant competes in, they must present enough chili to fill the designated 32 oz. container to be submitted for judging. No contestant may pass out their competition chili prior to turning in the 32 oz. container for judging. Contestants must cook and turn in their own entries. The Chief Judge has the right to disqualify any cook or team of cooks found turning in an entry(s) not prepared by them. Any and all complaints about some type of cheating or other issue should be brought up to the Chief Judge so that it can be investigated, discussed, and handled prior to awards.

Any and all complaints about some type of alleged cheating or other issue needs to be brought up to the Chief Judge or Bernhardt Winery Representative so that it can be investigated, discussed, and handled **prior** to awards. The ruling of the Chief Judge is final.

### **People's Choice Chili Award:**

The People's Choice chili that receives the highest number of votes by the public will win. The manner of voting as well as prize structure will be determined by the event organizers. Each tasting participant will be provided with tasting cups, spoons, and People Choice ballot. Ballots are to be presented at the designated People's Choice Ballot Box designated by the Chief Judge.

### **All Chili Categories Awards:**

- A. Each Cook will be assigned a contestant number and be given one 32 oz. designated competition container per category prior to the start of the cooking period.
- B. Each cook will receive as many containers as categories they are competing in. For example- if competing in four categories a contestant will receive four containers. Each container will have their contestant number marked on the bottom.
- C. It is the contestant's responsibility to verify that the number on the bottom of their container(s) is the same as their assigned contestant number. No contestant may pick up or sign for another cook's container(s).
- D. Each cook is responsible for delivering their container(s) to the judging area at the end of the cooking period. Each container must be filled to the bottom of the rim.
- E. Garnishes must not be used for any category. Rule of thumb - if an ingredient found on the top layer of an entry container cannot also be found mixed throughout the entire container, it is a garnish and is not permitted. If a container is delivered for judging with a garnish, the entry will be disqualified.
- F. Cook-off judges will choose their top three, per category, using the judging criteria set forth by Bernhardt Winery and the Chief Judge. Place level prizes 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes for each category.
- G. Failure to abide by any of the above, in the unilateral and unfettered opinion of the Chief Judge, will result in immediate disqualification from the cook-off.

Prizes will be awarded for each Category and People's Choice:

- First Place Cash Prize plus Trophy
- Second Place Cash Prize plus Trophy
- Third Place/Honorable Mention Prize

*Thank you for participating in this very worthy fund-raising event.  
Have fun, enjoy the experience, and eat chili!*