

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Lobster Fest Aims To Create Seasonal Tradition And Culinary Tourism Boom For St. Croix

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ST. CROIX -- Imagine a meal set against the backdrop of a warm Crucian sunset. Imagine the sounds of sweet Caribbean music massaging your ears into the night. Imagine the sounds of the Caribbean surf kissing sandy beaches below you as you indulge in the sumptuous treats of a savory Caribbean Lobster dinner with all the trimmings.

It sounds like a dream, yes, but that's the mission of Egypt Entertainment and JV Diner's Lobster Fest, to be held on St. Croix from 5 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, December 17, a press release the companies issued has made known.

The event will be staged on the historic property of Fort Fredrick, in the historic town of Frederiksted, is the brain child of Jamal Miranda, executive chef and co-owner of JV Diner, who teamed up with young marketing executives Michael Pemberton, Ezra Boyce, Jr. and J'beau Rougier of Egypt Entertainment.

According to Mr. Miranda, who owns the restaurant with his wife Virginia, the event began to take shape in his head about five years ago and he slowly added details and dimensions to what has now become one of the most talked-about culinary events of the upcoming season.

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"To say that I am excited about St. Croix Lobster Fest would be an understatement. Our goal is to reach out to every one across the island, the territory, the region and the world to showcase our culinary expertise, historically rich location and our culture," he said. "We've been blessed to have a number of remarkable chefs agree to partner with us to offer lobster starters at the event that will leave our guests wanting more."

Along with Mr. Jamal, culinary experts like Chef Afia of Serenity by the Sea; Chef Eddie McNamara of 40 Strand; Chef Ozie of LaReine Chicken Shack; Chef Bouncer; Chef Simba of Lion's Pride and others will be a part of the event, creating their signature lobster dishes.

The idea of hosting a lobster festivals is in no way unique to St. Croix, having been successful in parts of Florida, California, Maine and the Caribbean. But Mr. Miranda said the event is being planned and marketed as a food tourism event in hopes of drawing visitors to the beautiful island that in itself is natural gem, cultural escape and a food-lovers paradise in more ways than one. He said St. Croix is his home, he has built his life and business here and it is worth showing off.

More than 160 tickets have already been sold for the event and coordinators said they are excited as tickets sales continue through the end of the month. "We are logistically prepared to accommodate just under 300 people but come the weekend after Thanksgiving, on November 26th, we will cease all ticket sales and begin focusing on final details, and location preparations to make it all come together magically," Miranda said.

The response to the event has been tremendous on social media and the buzz is deafening across the territory. Many corporations and individuals have reserved their tickets and full tables in the general seating and in the VIP section to ensure that they will be a part of the event that is looking to go down in history as epic.

Tickets are available at JV Diner in Castle Coakley and at Royalty Cuts in Ville LaReine or Golden Grove. Tickets are \$50 for general seating and \$100 for VIP seating person and are still going fast.

Sponsors of the event include: W1R Supermarket, Glynn Gas Station, Quality Foods, Office of Senator Kenneth Gittens, Plaza Extra, Sion Farm Gas Station, House of Printing, Something to Talk About Party Store, JV Diner and 103.5 FM Radio.

For more information about St. Croix Lobster Fest or to purchase tickets visit www.jvdiner.com

