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From chargrilled to casino, raw to Rockefeller, and every other preparation imaginable, oysters have long been a popular treasure from the sea. They are a delicacy enjoyed both with reverence and with reverie — and nowhere will they be more celebrated in all their various forms than at HarborWalk Village's second annual signature fall event, Half Shells on the Harbor. Both delicious and healthy (depending on how much butter, cheese, or bacon is involved), oysters are also sustainable and therefore environmentally friendly. Plus, they're considered an aphrodisiac. What's not to love?

Held Nov. 12, 2022, from 1-4 p.m., the festival kicks off with an exclusive

Meet the Farmers experience featuring Distillery 98's newly released Half Shells Vodka, distilled with oyster shells and presented in an eco-friendly plastic bottle. Learn something new as local oyster farmers discuss the process of growing oysters from seed to saltine. Each VIP ticket holder will receive early entry into the event as well as oyster and spirit samples.

Next, guests to this fantastic feast of meaty mollusks will enjoy an afternoon of oyster tasting and sipping beverages perfectly paired with these briny beauties. There's nothing like a good oyster pairing — the most classic of which is, of course, Champagne. The crisp bubbles in Champagne complement the flavor of most oysters

because they cut through the richness of this bivalve and heighten its subtler flavors.

Dry white wines also pair spectacularly with oysters. Try more acidic wines like a pinot gris or sauvignon blanc — these varietals have a lemony flavor that enhances the flavor of the oysters. Ask any well-schooled foodie, and they'll advise you to choose a slightly tart, light-bodied wine, as those characteristics play off the brininess of the oysters.

Those not enamored by the allure of wine can still enjoy a great pairing as beer is also a great friend of oysters. Try a dark, rich stout or a beer with a sweet and sour flavor which complements the inherent sweetness of the oysters. Check out the many offerings of wine,

craft brews, and spirits from Timbercreek Distillery, Goat Island Brewery, Terrapin Beer Company, Oyster City Brewing Company, and more throughout the day. Tippy Mule will be mixing cocktails, and Whim Cotton Candy will create custom-flavored cotton candy to add some sweetness to the event.

Clearly, oysters have a great many charms. And, as a part of the beating heart of the Gulf Coast's seafood industry, the Destin Harbor is the perfect location for this tide-to-table event. "Half Shells on the Harbor features a sampling of oyster dishes from local restaurants and oyster farmers who are renowned for their unique cooking methods, flavors, and plate dressings," says Kelsey Plant, Marketing Manager at HarborWalk Village. "Oysters are considered a Southern delicacy, drawing craving-driven crowds from near and far to attend this event. It's such a unique affair on the Harbor, and people are offered a variety of unique tasting experiences. You'll see beyond the restaurant, into the world of the farmers, and learn the skills behind oyster shucking."

Featuring tastings from more than a dozen local restaurants who are competing and showing off their skills in all things oysters, the festival gives ticket holders the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of preparations and flavors — some classic, some completely unique — whether baked, grilled, fried, or raw. More than 15,000 oysters will be prepared during the event. And, of course, there will be a variety of libations for finding your perfect pairing. Throughout the course of the afternoon, local band Beau & the Burners will perform on the Main Stage.

A portion of ticket sales benefit the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance, and Fisher House of the Emerald Coast. All oyster shells will be collected and donated to the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance. All beneficiaries will be on-site at the event providing an opportunity to learn more about these great local, environmental nonprofits. •



## FALL EVENTS

Fireworks  
Every Saturday in October at 9:00 P.M.

College Football Saturdays  
September - November

Destin Seafood Festival  
October 7-9

Rocktober Concert Series  
October 1, 15 & 22

Spooktacular Nights  
October 29-30

Island Concert Series  
November 6, 13 & 20

Veterans Day Program  
November 11

Half Shells on the Harbor  
November 12



For more information on Half Shells on the Harbor, visit  
[www.EventLiveUS.com/event/2668338-half-shells-on-the-harbor](http://www.EventLiveUS.com/event/2668338-half-shells-on-the-harbor).