

# ROUNDUP & BEST BITES

## Competition

PRESENTED BY



Rodeo  
Uncorked!  
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™

## 2026 PARTICIPANT SIGN-UP INFORMATION

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is thrilled to invite you to be part of one of Houston's most anticipated culinary celebrations on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026 at NRG Center!

As a valued participant, this packet contains everything you need to know about showcasing your cuisine at the 2026 Rodeo Uncorked! Roundup & Best Bites Competition. From key dates and setup details to participant perks and contact info, this guide is designed to make your experience seamless and successful. Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, we can't wait to see your creativity, flavor, and flair on full display in front of thousands of passionate food and wine lovers.

This high-profile tasting event brings together 6,000+ food and wine enthusiasts. Guests will enjoy bites from the best local restaurants and award-winning wines—while voting for their favorite dishes!

## PARTICIPANT PERKS

- Program Listing – Sign up by Jan. 9 for guaranteed inclusion in the printed program
- Silver Badges – Entry into NRG Park (Grounds only) for up to two team members
- Extra Badge – Submit your indemnity form by Dec. 2 to receive a third badge
- Location Priority – Register by Dec. 2 to get priority booth placement (see map below)
- Professional Photography – Get professional shots of your dish/station
- Award Opportunities – Win one of several custom belt buckle awards
- Recognition Materials – Receive a wall plaque, window cling, and digital badge
- Media Exposure – Be featured in Houston Press, Culture Map, and more

## HOW TO REGISTER

1. Fill out the online sign-up form.
2. Review the 2026 Restaurant Handbook.
3. Review and return the signed indemnity form.
4. Refer to key dates below and in this packet.
5. Direct questions to: [wine@rodeohouston.com](mailto:wine@rodeohouston.com)

## WHAT YOU GET

- Exposure to thousands of food and wine lovers
- Opportunity to win a custom belt buckle award
- Photos of your dish and station setup
- Pre- and post-event media coverage
- Recognition materials for your restaurant
- Pride in supporting Texas youth and education

### EVENT OVERVIEW: QUICK FACTS

**Who:** Houston-area chefs, caterers, and culinary institutions

**What:** A culinary competition and wine tasting showcase

**When:** Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026 | 6:00 – 9:30 PM

**Where:** NRG Center, Halls D & E

**Setup Deadline:** 5:00 PM sharp for photos and wristband check

# PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS



## HANDBOOK

Review and agree to all terms in the 2026 Restaurant Handbook

## MENU & PORTIONS

Minimum of 1,500 tasting portions (2–3 oz each) of your signature dish

## HEALTH PERMIT

City of Houston temporary health permit required. HLSR will circulate the 2026 permit application as soon as it is available. Cost will be reimbursed by HLSR with receipt after participation.

## SETUP & SUPPLIES

Provided:

- Two 8' tables with black linens (one front-serving, one prep)
- Custom name sign
- Disposable plates/bowls, napkins, forks/spoons

Bring your own:

- Utensils, heating and/or cooking equipment (e.g., sternos, chafing dishes)
- Carts/dollies (not provided)

## ELECTRICAL NEEDS

Must request in advance on the competition supply form (sent in early 2026).

## RESTRICTIONS

- No open flames or propane per fire code
- No outside alcohol or sales permitted
- No one under 21 permitted in the venue

## STAFFING

Max of 5 staff per station. Limited additional tickets available — email [wine@rodeohouston.com](mailto:wine@rodeohouston.com) for information.

## DAY-OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographers will visit each booth at 5 PM. Photos posted to SmugMug post-event.

## CONTACT US

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo – Wine Events Committee

[wine@rodeohouston.com](mailto:wine@rodeohouston.com) ★ 832.667.1184 ★ [www.rodeohouston.com/wine](http://www.rodeohouston.com/wine)

## SEE YOU THERE!

We're excited to welcome you and share your talents with Houston's top foodies. Let's make it unforgettable!

*The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is a Section 501(c) (3) charity that promotes agriculture by hosting an annual, family-friendly experience that educates and entertains the public, supports Texas youth, showcases Western heritage and provides year-round educational support within the community.*



**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

Best Bites Competition entries open online.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025**

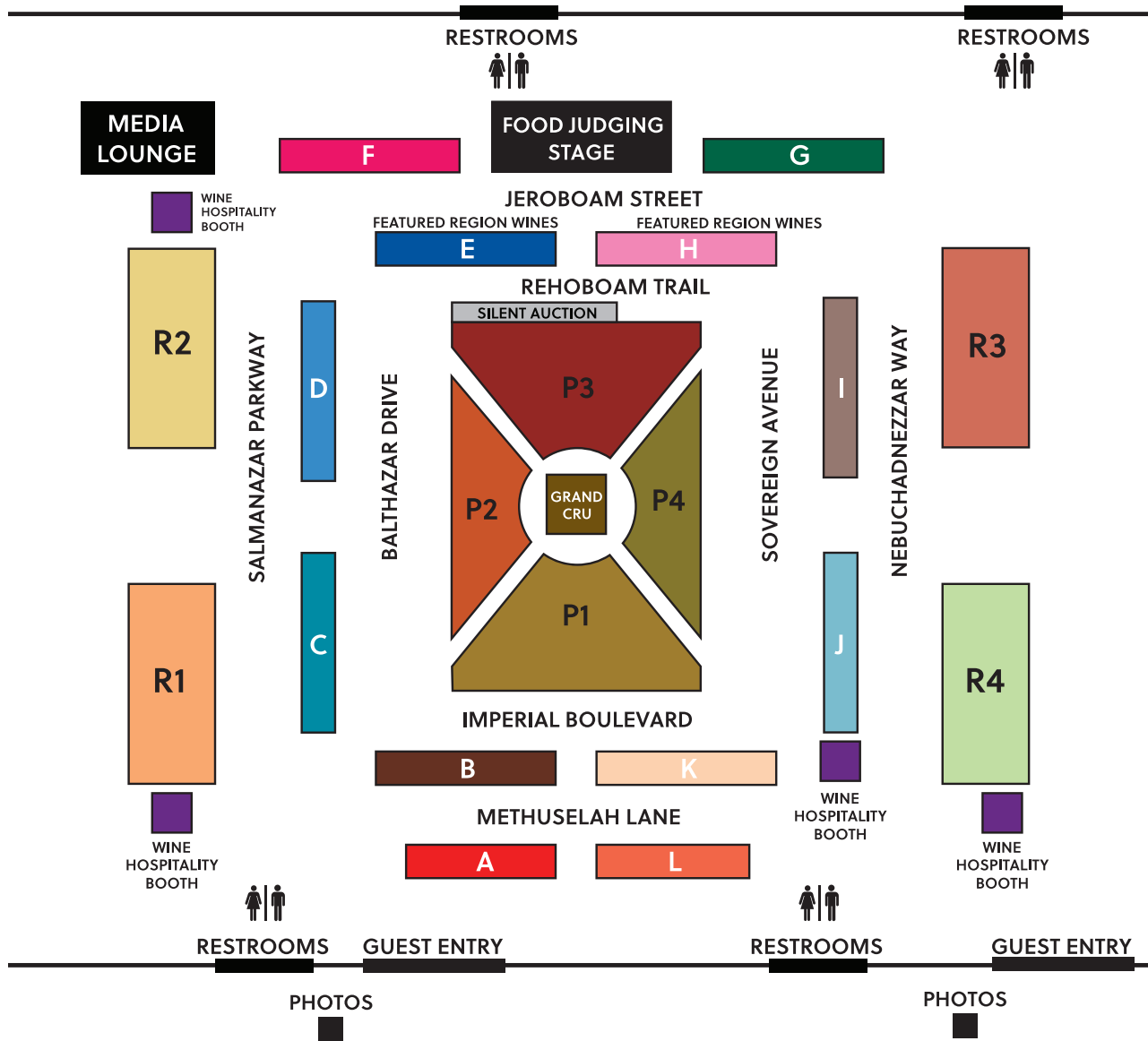
Early entry deadline – any entity that has signed up and submitted their signed indemnity form by this date will get additional benefits, outlined on page 1

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025**

Deadline to sign up with guaranteed placement in the printed program.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

Rodeo Uncorked! Roundup & Best Bites Competition at NRG Center.



## WINNING WINES\* & RESTAURANTS

<span style="color: red;">■</span> SECTION A	<span style="color: blue;">■</span> SECTION E*	<span style="color: brown;">■</span> SECTION I
<span style="color: brown;">■</span> SECTION B	<span style="color: pink;">■</span> SECTION F	<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> SECTION J
<span style="color: teal;">■</span> SECTION C	<span style="color: green;">■</span> SECTION G	<span style="color: orange;">■</span> SECTION K
<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> SECTION D	<span style="color: pink;">■</span> SECTION H*	<span style="color: orange;">■</span> SECTION L

\*WINES FROM OUR FEATURED REGION CAN BE FOUND IN SECTION E AND H

## TABLE BUYER SEATING

<span style="color: brown;">■</span> GRAND CRU	
<span style="color: olive;">■</span> PREMIUM - P1	<span style="color: orange;">■</span> RESERVE - R1
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> PREMIUM - P2	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> RESERVE - R2
<span style="color: red;">■</span> PREMIUM - P3	<span style="color: red;">■</span> RESERVE - R3
<span style="color: olive;">■</span> PREMIUM - P4	<span style="color: green;">■</span> RESERVE - R4