

Whisky Master Tom Turner brings talent to Smokin' in Mesquite

The growth of the Smokin' in Mesquite BBQ is evidenced yet again by the addition of prominent Master of Whisky Tom Turner to the 2010 event Labor Day Weekend at the CasaBlanca Resort.

Throughout his ten plus years in the spirits industry, Turner has served as a Vodka Ambassador, studied Tequila in Jalisco, and sipped rum on exotic beaches throughout the world.

While Turner enjoys his work with all types of spirits, his heart belongs to whisky, which is why he considers his role as Master of Whisky for Diageo the pinnacle of his career. He is one of the 15 Masters of Whisky thereby illustrating his knowledge of the world of whisky.

Hailing from Kentucky, Tom has always appreciated quality bourbon, and now as Master of Whisky for Arizona and Nevada, he expands his knowledge of all whiskies on a daily basis.

"I know people who have worked in whiskies on a daily basis," said Turner, who will present the Crown Royal Whisky Master gathering Friday, Sept. 3 from 7:30-8 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 4 from 4-4:30 p.m. in the CasaBlanca Event Center. "I know people who have worked in whisky making for over 40 years and they still talk about how they learn something new every day!"

Turner believes that his job as a Master of Whisky is to guide people towards their own personal discovery and understand the spirit.

"One of the things that make the Mesquite event unique is that it will allow people the opportunity see things in a new way," Turner said. "People are going to learn how to pare BBQ with great Crown Royal cocktails.

"When the folks of the CasaBlanca told me that this was a BBQ festival, I said I'll be there no questions asked," he said. "BBQ lends itself very well to all of the whiskies and people are going to be surprised how well whisky and BBQ go together"

Though his career in whisky keeps him busy, Turner has also found time to amass Masters Degrees in both Art and Education and is currently finishing his PHD in Education at Arizona State University.

In his limited downtime, Turner enjoys all things sports, playing the guitar and caring for his pets with his wife, Stephanie.

Presented by the Mesquite Resort Association, The Smokin' in Mesquite BBQ competition features a \$40,000 purse. Sponsored by the Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS), the event offers a bonus to the top finishers from the Best Damn BBQ held Memorial Day weekend in Boulder City along with the Mesquite event.

Further information regarding this year's event can be found by visiting www.mesquitebbqchampionship.com or by calling Christian Adderson at 702-346-7529, ext. 6981.

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