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## **2017 NEW YORK AFRICAN RESTAURANT WEEK DATES ANNOUNCED**

*OCTOBER 1-22 Kicks Off NYC's Largest Celebration of African Cuisine and Culture*

New York, NY (Sept 5, 2017) - New York African Restaurant Week (NYARW) will kick off its fifth annual celebration of African cuisine and culture on October 1-22, 2017 featuring a curated selection of more than **25 restaurants**, world renowned chefs, and **75 events** that will bring a “taste of Africa” across New York City. The complete line-up of restaurants, chefs, and events for this year’s NYARW is available at [NYARW.com](http://NYARW.com) with additional pop-up experiences and sweepstakes to be announced.

Launched in 2013 by Akin Akinsanya, Founder & CEO of A Taste of Africa USA, the three-week long NYARW includes restaurants in Manhattan and Brooklyn offering special prix-fixe menus during lunch and dinner reflecting cuisines and flavors from various parts of Africa and the African Diaspora. More than one hundred thousand restaurant patrons are expected to be taken across a “**GastroAfrique Culinary Odyssey**” with traditional African dishes and avant-garde “Afrofusion” menus, courtesy of restaurants and internationally acclaimed chefs.

As a festival committed to bringing awareness to critical social issues around food security in New York City, Africa and around the world, each year NYARW also partners with community organizations aligned with the NYARW mission. During this year’s festival, each Wednesday and Thursday will be coined “Harvest Day” and “Vocal Day”, where a percentage of proceeds from prix-fixe menus will benefit **City Harvest and VOCAL New York**, organizations working to combat hunger and homelessness in New York City.

“Within the burgeoning NYC culinary scene, New York African Restaurant Week presents an exciting and unique opportunity to celebrate the best of African cuisine,” **said Akinsanya, NYARW Founder & CEO.** “The Festival targets a culturally rich and diverse audience in the City, both residents and international visitors, who have one thing in common - a love of or a curiosity for the intricacies of African food, cooking and culture.”

“New York African Restaurant Week is a celebration of African cuisine, restaurants, and chefs and a promotion of diverse voices in the global culinary movement - both celebrity and emerging,” **said Tanaka Mawindi, NYARW Event Director and Head of Business Development.** “It’s also a commitment to community development and social impact that transcends boundaries. We’re inviting all of NYC to be a part of that.”

**NYARW participating restaurants include** Bar Omar, Ponty Bistro, Madiba, Queen of Sheba, Café Rue Dix, Buka, and more, collectively representing African and African-inspired cuisines from Ethiopia, Senegal, Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria, Morocco, Andalusia, the Caribbean, and the American South.

**NYARW participating chefs include** Pierre Thiam, Cisse, Victor Bongo, Hamid Idrissi, Nadine Nelson, Selassie Atadika, Philipos, Serge Pambo, Charmain Sithappah, Shorne Benjamin, and other celebrated chefs within the global African Diaspora.

### 2017 NYARW events include:

- **Nigerian Independence Day Dinner** on Sun. Oct 1 at Buka Restaurant
- **James Beard Dinner: Odyssey Across Africa** on Sat. Oct 7 from 7 pm to 10 pm at the James Beard House - Hosted in partnership with the James Beard Foundation, critically acclaimed African chefs from New York city restaurants and worldwide will present a 8-course thrilling dinner experience. Participating chefs: Pierre Thiam, Victor Bongo, Selassie Atadika, Nadine Nelson, Serge Pambo, and Charmain Sithappah. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the James Beard [events website](#).
- **African Restaurant Week Festival** on Sun, Oct 8 from 12:30 pm to 7 pm at Industry City in Brooklyn -Over 30 African restaurants and food vendors, celebrity chef demos and appearances, beer and wine tastings, live DJ performances/a day party, kids' spa zone, and 20 market vendors equals the mega-festival event of the Fall. GA and VIP packages available ranging from \$15 to \$80. Tickets on sale on [eventbrite](#). One lucky festival goer will win a luxury stay and safari trip for two to Ghana.
- **Chef Collabo Event Series: Chef Cisse and Chef Bongo** on Mon, Oct 9 from 7 pm to 9 pm at Ponty Bistro
- **Tokunbo Koiki: A Taste of Nigeria** on Thurs, Oct 12 from 7 pm to 9 pm at Bed-Vyne
- **Linner is for Lovers** on Sun, Oct 15 from 4 pm to 6:30 pm at Madiba Restaurant
- **Jollof Without Borders** on Sun, Oct 15 from 4:30 pm to 7 pm at Joloff Restaurant
- **Food Business Pitch Competition** on Fri, Oct 20 from 10 am to 2 pm at Microsoft New York
- **Poets Café**, an on-going event series on select Thursdays during Festival at select restaurants

### 2017 NYARW Participant Sweepstakes Include:

- 21 Days of Free Dinner for two
- Roundtrip airfare for two to South Africa, courtesy of South African Airways
- An all-inclusive luxury stay and safari trip for two to Ghana, courtesy of Immersion Journeys
- Nando's Peri Peri hot sauce goodie bags

Key partners for New York African Restaurant Week 2017 include the James Beard Foundation, Nando's, Saveur, South African Tourism, South African Airways, Food-X, Food Tank, Mahir S. Nisar Attorney at Law, The Africa Channel, Immersion Journeys, Toast of Brooklyn, and Flatbush Fest.

For more information on NYARW, including a full list of participating restaurants, prix-fixe menus, chef bios and special events are available at [nyarw.com](http://nyarw.com), on Instagram @AfricanRestaurantWeek and on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/NYAfricanRestaurantWeek](http://www.Facebook.com/NYAfricanRestaurantWeek).

### About A Taste of Africa USA

A Taste of Africa USA is the official curator and producer of New York African Restaurant Week. It is a food, culture, and special events company based in Brooklyn, New York. Since 2008, A Taste of African USA has produced networking events in New York City that feature African food, fashion, and live entertainment programs. The company's events also highlight and raise funds for non-profit organizations dedicated to supporting change and development in the local community and in Africa.