

**Media Contact:**
Andrew Witt
awitt@historiccoastculture.com
(904) 808-7330

**Festivals Celebrate Arts, Culture and Heritage on Florida’s Historic Coast**

***Celebrations showcase unique cultural community***

**ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla.** – For every season there is a festival beckoning you to bask in the mild Florida weather and celebrate arts, culture and heritage on Florida’s Historic Coast. From arts & crafts shows and family celebrations to wine festivals and musical revelries, there is a perfect festival for your getaway.

At the [St. Augustine Spanish Wine Festival](http://www.spanishwinefestival.com), held annually in February, visitors meet culinary experts and wine specialists from every region of Spain as they wander through the historic streets of St. Augustine, the Spanish Wine Capitol of America.

In the spring, visitors delight in the annual [Celtic Music and Heritage Festival](http://www.celticstaugustine.com/). The event is packed with events such as a whiskey tasting and pub crawl and for the family, the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Scottish Highland Games.

During the summer, music heats up the coast with several signature celebrations. The [St. Augustine Music Festival](http://www.staugustinemusicfestival.org/), a free classic music concert series, delights more than 5,000 attendees over two weekends at the historic Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. Family-friendly concerts are held Wednesday evenings May-September in St. Augustine Beach at the Pier Pavilion during the [Music by the Sea](http://thecivicassociation.org/music_by_the_sea_summer_concerts) event series. A variety of music is showcased, as is a local restaurant serving appetizers each week. Visitors to the historic district will delight in the sounds of the [Concerts in the Plaza](http://www.staugustinegovernment.com/the-city/featured-stories-archive/CitP13.cfm) held in the Plaza de la Constitución’s Gazebo, beginning with an afternoon performance on Memorial Day and continuing all summer long on Thursdays evenings, concluding with another afternoon performance on Labor Day.

Fall’s crisp weather is a great time to enjoy outdoor festivals, including the annual [Sing Out Loud](http://www.singoutloudfestival.com/) in September, which features hundreds of performances by local, regional and national artists at multiple venues around St. Augustine.

In honor and celebration of the many generations of seamen landing in the St. Augustine region, the [St. Augustine Maritime Heritage Festival](http://staugmaritimeheritage.org/) is held annually in October at The Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park. The two-day event features live entertainment, the quick and dirty boat building competition, book signings, kid zone, old city maritime bar tending challenge, beer and wine tent and more. Indoors, in the fall, visitors will find [The Florida Heritage Book Festival and Writer’s Conference](http://www.fhbookfest.com). There is two days of educational seminars followed by a public festival featuring fiction and nonfiction authors who live in or write about Florida.

The Nights of Lights annual celebration in St. Augustine makes it an ideal time to visit and partake in the holiday festivities, including the historical reenactment of [The Colonial Night Watch.](http://hfm.club/nightwatch/) Visitors get a jump on their holiday shopping during the [Annual Fine Arts & Crafts Festival](http://www.staugustineartfestival.com) held for more than 48 years on the weekend following Thanksgiving. Live music, children's activities, art demonstrations, food trucks and libations combine to create a memorable start to the holiday season. The [St. Augustine Film Festival](http://staugfilmfestival.wix.com/saff), held in January, has showcases cased a variety of films from all over the globe. Visitors discover the magic behind the scenes at screenings, celebrations, discussions and more.

For more information about arts, culture and heritage festivals on Florida’s Historic Coast, download the complete guide at [www.historiccoastculture.com/maps/festivals/](https://www.historiccoastculture.com/maps/festivals/). There is “Culture Around Every Corner.”

**About St. Johns Cultural Council**The St. Johns Cultural Council is a 501 © (3) not-for-profit agency. Under agreement with the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, the SJCC provides arts, culture and heritage tourism destination marketing services to the county’s Tourist Development Council (TDC). Funding for marketing services comes from a portion of the county’s bed tax. For more information, call (904) 808-7330 or visit [www.stjohnsculture.com](http://www.stjohnsculture.com).

###