

SunSentinel

THE WEEKENDER



Mockups of the Funky Buddha's anniversary beers (Confetti Cuddles, Coconut Cream Pie IPA and Bob's Backyard) that will go on sale to the public for the brewery's 10th anniversary, are seen at the brewery in Oakland Park. **JOE CAVARETTA/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL PHOTOS**



Andrew Martineau is the organizer of Mezcal Lauderdale, photographed behind the bar at Rio's inside Fort Lauderdale restaurant Canyon. **MIKE STOCKER/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL**

Want to drink like LeBron James?

5 questions on how to drink mezcal with founder of four-day Mezcal Lauderdale

By Ben Crandell
Sun Sentinel

Talk to any South Florida bartender and they'll tell you the trendiest spirit of the past few years is tequila, as the cocktail cognoscenti look for an alternative to whiskey and vodka. But for those seeking even more adventure, there is the smoky mystery of mezcal.

Often confused with one another — both are distilled from agave, the spiky desert plant of Mexico — mezcal may be having a moment: LeBron James has a signature bottle, as do musicians Maluma and Lenny Kravitz.

And this weekend brings the second annual Mezcal Lauderdale, a four-day celebration that is one of a small number of festivals around the country solely dedicated to mezcal.

Taking place Friday to Monday in downtown Fort Lauderdale at the recently revitalized Canyon restaurant and its intimate in-house tequila bar, Rio, Mezcal Lauderdale will include tasting dinners, mixology classes, food pairings, music and a luxury cigar lounge in a vintage Airstream trailer. Among the highlights: a 9 p.m. Saturday four-course dinner paired with Chacolo mezcal, led by master mezcalier Benjamin Nava Vargas from Mexico.

The festival has been organized by Andrew Martineau, the

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'WE WANTED OUR BABY BACK'

Funky Buddha founders to buy back brewery, celebrate 10 years and upgrade with distillery

By Phillip Valys
Sun Sentinel

On the eve of their milestone 10th anniversary party, the founders of Oakland Park's Funky Buddha Brewery have equally big news — and big future plans.

Even as they're preparing for 10 days of festivities ahead, brothers KC and Ryan Sentz have announced they're officially buying back their brand from beer behemoth Constellation Brands. The purchase, for an undisclosed price, is expected to be finalized as early as mid-June, they say, ending nearly six years of ownership by the U.S. distribution company for popular beers such as Corona, Modelo and Pacifico.

"We wanted our baby back to build on it," said KC Sentz, who described the breakup with Constellation as amica-



The founders of Oakland Park's Funky Buddha Brewery, KC and Ryan Sentz, have reached a deal to buy back its brand from beer giant Constellation Brands, with the sale expected to close by mid-June.

ble. "We felt there was a lot more we could do with the brand, that in our hands we could be a bit more nimble and entrepreneurial. It's easier when you're a small business and you can make some decisions to grow."

Constellation Brands acquired the rising regional brewery back in August 2017. Reached on Monday night, a Constellation Brands spokesperson told the South Florida Sun Sentinel that the decision to sell Funky Buddha resulted

from a recent corporate decision to exit the craft-beer market entirely.

"Growth trends throughout the craft beer segment have changed significantly, and we have therefore made the strategic decision to bring our dedicated craft and specialty efforts to a close," said Maggie Bowman, communications vice president for the beer division at Constellation Brands.

Constellation has been shedding its beer portfolio since 2019, when it unloaded Ballast Point — for which it paid \$1 billion in 2015 — to Kings & Convicts Brewing Co. in Chicago. In addition to Funky Buddha, the beer company announced on Friday it is selling Dallas-based Four Corners Brewing back to its original founders.

Although buying back

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'No Scrubs,' yes Tarantino, and getting piggy wit' it in West Palm Beach



Ben Crandell
Go Guide

You don't summer in South Florida unless you're a local, right? As we slip into June, this is about the time when we can pause to appreciate local pleasures and the people who

create them. The Sentz brothers at Funky Buddha Brewery, man-about-downtown-Fort-Lauderdale Andrew Martineau, personable chef Lindsay Autry in West Palm Beach, local-music ringmaster Dan Bonebreak, who has helped organize a gathering at The Lion & Eagle Pub in Boca Raton. They deserve our support.

Thursday

Gotta have that Funk: The Funky Buddha Brewery in Oakland Park

on Thursday will kick off a 10-day commemoration of its 10th anniversary, while also celebrating its new-old ownership — local founders Ryan and KC Sentz are reacquiring the business from Constellation Brands. Anniversary events include special bottle releases, pairings (including one with Wilton Creamery), trivia and karaoke nights, a beer dinner and more. Visit FunkyBuddha.com.

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Guitarist and composer Russell Mofsky of Gold Dust Lounge. **COURTESY**

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Go Guide

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Friday

Pigging out: Acclaimed chef Lindsay Autry (multiple James Beard Foundation nominations, “Top Chef” finalist) will host a Pig Pickin’ feast at The Regional in West Palm Beach on Friday, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Autry will feature her hickory-smoked pulled pork prepared in the style of her native North Carolina, with classic Southern sides. Summer-inspired cocktails and desserts will be available a la carte. Visit EatRegional.com.

Mezcal mania: A four-day celebration of the prized Mexican elixir, Mezcal Lauderdale will take place Friday through Monday at the recently renovated and reinvigorated Canyon restaurant in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Hosted by Andrew Martineau, this second annual gathering will include tasting dinners, mixology classes, food pairings, a cigar lounge, live music, a brunch and more. Among the special mezcals worth checking out will be bottles from LeBron James, Maluma and Lenny Kravitz. Ticket prices vary by event. Visit MezcalLauderdale.com.

Friday laughs: Actor-comedians Andrew Santino and Bobby Lee bring the touring version of their hit podcast, “Bad Friends,” to Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood at 8 p.m. Friday. Tickets start at \$45+ at MyHRL.com.

Viva, Boca: At Mizner Park Amphitheater in Boca Raton on Friday, the nostalgia-minded Summer in the City concert series will showcase The Elvis Presley Experience, featuring nationally ranked, Wellington-raised Elvis tribute artist Matt Stone. Admission is free, with food and drink available for purchase. Doors open



Comedian Kevin Hart will perform 8 p.m. Saturday at Hard Rock Live. **RICHARD SHOTWELL/INVISION**

at 7 p.m., with the show set for 8 p.m. Bring your own blankets and chairs (or rent a chair for \$5). Sponsored by American Social Bar & Kitchen and the Waterstone Resort & Marina, the series continues on June 16 with Beach Boys tribute band The Beach Buoys. Visit MiznerAmp.com.

Rocking Clematis: Pride on the Block will kick off Pride Month in downtown West Palm Beach on Friday and Saturday, both as a celebration and a fundraiser for local LGBTQ+ nonprofit Transpire Help. It will feature live music, speakers and cocktail-ing along the 500 block of Clematis Street from 7 to 11 p.m. each night, as well as a diverse menu of family friendly activities nearby at The Square from 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday. Highlights include appearances on Saturday by transgender singer-songwriter (as seen on Vans Warped Tour) Ryan Cassata and state Rep. Zooey Zephyr, who recently made national

headlines for being ostracized by the Montana Legislature in a dispute over gender-affirming care for minors. Wristbands cost \$35 in advance (\$40 at gate) and include one free drink from partner businesses on Clematis (Subculture Coffee, Hullabaloo, Kapow Noodle Bar, Respectable Street, Lost Weekend), as well as perks from participants at The Square. Visit PrideOnTheBlock.com.

Friday movies: Downtown Fort Lauderdale’s historic Savor Cinema will host Popcorn Frights’ next examination of the Quentin Tarantino oeuvre with back-to-back screenings of “Kill Bill: Volume 1” and “Kill Bill: Volume 2” on Friday night. Tarantino’s stylishly outrageous 2003-2004 appreciation of martial arts and vengeance feature Uma Thurman, David Carradine, Daryl Hannah, Vivica A. Fox, Lucy Liu and many more. The night will begin at 7 p.m. with Asian-fusion eats from food truck

Inspir-Asian, and “Kill Bill: Volume 1” screening at 8 p.m., a 10 p.m. intermission and “Kill Bill: Volume 2” at 10:30 p.m. Tickets for both films are \$15+. Parking is free in the garage next door. Visit PopcornFrights.com.

Saturday

Saturday laughs: No doubting the popularity of comedian Kevin Hart (he ranked No. 40 on Pollstar’s chart of top-grossing North American tours in 2022, his \$40.3 million just behind Sebastian Maniscalco). So no doubt tickets are hard to come by for his Hard Rock Live show at 8 p.m. Saturday. Scattered single seats start at \$168+, with pairs going for more than \$300 each. Visit MyHRL.com.

Barbecue for a cause: Local chef and skateboarder Cory Bartle will be remembered during the Bartle BBQ Hang from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at Phipps Skate Park in West Palm Beach. The day of barbecue and skateboard fun

(there will be a half-pipe competition with prizes) will send all proceeds to the Cory Bartle Memorial Fund sponsored by the Hanley Foundation, the West Palm Beach addiction prevention organization. The day is underwritten by Sandy James Fine Food, the catering company where Bartle worked for many years. Bartle died from an accidental overdose on Oct. 22 at age 34. Tickets cost \$50, or \$35 for a junior ticket (age 13 to 30). Kids younger than 12 enter free. Visit HanleyFoundation.org/bbq.

The Lion bleeps tonight: A who’s who of local music roughnecks and pleasure-seekers will perform for the 15th anniversary of TheLion & Eagle Pub in Boca Raton, beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday. Among them are The Lightworkers (duo with Dan Bonebrake and Keith Michaud), Gold Dust Lounge (Russell Mofsky and Robin Roslund), Rob Helmsorig, Christian Boswell, Dan Bradley,

Jamie Brown, Kelsie Ryan, Ashley Reda, Mark Dubin and Nervous Monks. Yes, there will be drink specials. Visit Facebook.com/danbonebrake.

Want your ’90s? If you’re a fan of ’90s R&B, a definitive playlist will be heard from the acts gathered at FPL Solar Amphitheater in Miami’s Bayfront Park on Saturday night. They include TLC (“Creep,” “Waterfalls,” “No Scrubs”), En Vogue (“Hold On,” “My Lovin’ (You’re Never Gonna Get It),” “Free Your Mind”), and Shaggy (“Boombastic”), joined by Sean Kingston (“Beautiful Girls”). The show goes on at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$29.50+ at LiveNation.com.

Ana in Miami: Mexico music icon Ana Gabriel brings her Por Amor A Ustedes Tour to the Kaseya Center in Miami at 8 p.m. Saturday. Most of the best tickets are gone, but the arena has opened several blocks of seats on the side of the stage, with prices starting at \$71+. Upper level general-admission tickets start at \$51+ at Ticketmaster.com.

Sunday

Shady brunch: Downtown Fort Lauderdale’s longest picnic, also known as the Sunday Jazz Brunch, unspools along the north bank of the New River, from Esplanade Park on past the new House on the River restaurant, which has an inviting outdoor brunch of its own. If you are looking for a snack to enhance a blanketed meal in a shady spot by the water, check out the baked goods at French bakery La Ville Rose, on the east side of the House on the River. Nothing but good stuff here. Visit TheHouseOnTheRiver.com. For more on the Sunday Jazz Brunch, visit Parks.FortLauderdale.gov/jazzbrunch.

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