

Press Contact: Tom Keating
Ybor City Chamber
813.248.3712 x23

For Immediate Release:

Aficionados Back in “the City”
Ybor Chamber’s Aficionado Days Returns for Encore Engagement

(Tampa, Florida – March 25, 2008) The Ybor City Chamber of Commerce will hold its *Second Annual - Ybor Aficionado Days* Saturday, April 12th and Sunday, April 13th to celebrate the anniversary of the manufacture of the first cigar in 1886. This up-scale, two-day event will begin Saturday evening with dinner “on your own” in the Latin Quarter. A jazz concert headlined by national recording artist Eric Darius will be featured at the Historic Cuban Club followed by dancing with the Eric Darius Band. This year’s event continues on Sunday with an elegant brunch at the world famous Columbia Restaurant on 7th Avenue. An authentic “Ybor City Smoker with the Millie Puente Band in Ybor’s Centennial Park completes the experience.

Event Chairman Arturo Fuente, Jr. said, “ ‘Aficionado’ signifies an enthusiast of something. We are ‘enthusiasts’ of Tampa’s Historic Latin Quarter and Ybor Aficionado Days is our way of sharing the ‘ultimate Ybor experience’ within the greater community.” Experience the excitement of today’s creative scene in Ybor City and then travel back in time to savor our rich traditions in one incredible weekend.

Saturday have dinner in one of Ybor City’s many fine dining establishments. Then, join us at the Cuban Club to hear nationally known jazz saxophonist, Eric Darius, backed-up by the Eric Darius Band. Eric, just back from the Orient, is a Tampa musical prodigy and can be heard regularly on jazz stations across the country. Doors open at 7:00 PM with the Concert beginning at 8:00 PM. Light hors d’oeuvres will be served and cash bar available. Guests will receive a special complimentary cigar marking the occasion. Stay after the concert and dance the night away, while enjoying a dessert bar and coffee.

On Sunday, a sumptuous Spanish Brunch will be served at the Columbia starting at noon. The elegant, traditional buffet will be laid out in the Patio Courtyard with the entire Siboney Room reserved for guests. From 2:00 to 5:00 PM an “Ybor City Smoker” will be held in Centennial Park featuring local hand-rollers. Cigars will be available for purchase and complimentary samples of wine, spirits and beer will be poured. Sweet and savory Ybor fare and café con leche will be provided.

Tickets for the Concert and Dance are \$55 and tickets for the Brunch and Smoker are \$45. A combination ticket that includes all events is only \$90. Tickets are available from the Ybor City Chamber’s Visitors Information Center at 1600 East 8th Avenue in Centro Ybor, by phone 813.241.8838 or e-mail us at info@ybor.org