

COMMANDER'S PALACE

Lally Brennan Co-Proprietor

BIOS



The pleasures of food, family tradition, and restaurants run through Lally Brennan's veins. The hospitality industry veteran counts as family eight members of the Brennan brood who successfully steer the Commander's Palace family of restaurants.

She began as part of the business at the age of 13, working the front door at Brennan's on Royal Street in New Orleans and helping with paperwork in the attic upstairs. She left New Orleans to attend Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, but eventually made her way back to her hometown to help with the restaurants.

Initially overseeing the front of the house as a floor manager at Mr. B's, a restaurant then owned by her father and his siblings that served New Orleans-style cuisine, within two years she was transferred to the family's legendary Commander's Palace, where she is currently co-proprietor with her cousin, Ti Adelaide Martin. Over the past two decades, she has put her tireless energy, business acumen, and artistic talents to work in many capacities,

including playing an active role in the post-Katrina re-design of the restaurant. In addition, she has been personally involved in the design of the family's other restaurants, including Commander's Palace, Café Adelaide and the Swizzle Stick Bar in New Orleans, and Brennan's of Houston.

Outside of her work with all of the restaurants, Brennan has been actively involved with the New Orleans-based organization Girls First, the principle mission of which is to build self-esteem and improve the lives and futures of inner-city girls. She has appeared alongside her cousin Ti on NPR's "All Things Considered," NBC's "Today," "The Martha Stewart Show," and "After Hours with Daniel Boulud." She is also the co-author of *In the Land of Cocktails: Recipes and Adventures from the Cocktail Chicks*, a book detailing the stories of 75 cocktails and why they're important to New Orleans. Among her many other considerable civic, charitable, and industry activities are:

- Co-founder, Les Dames d'Escoffiers, New Orleans Chapter
- International Association of Culinary Professionals
- James Beard Foundation
- New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Women Chefs and Restaurateurs
- The Audubon Institute
- Prevent Child Abuse, board member
- Longue Vue House and Gardens
- Contemporary Arts Center, past board member
- New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts
- Junior League, sustainer
- Herman Grima Foundation
- Louisiana Restaurant Association

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact Jennifer Rodstrom at Wagstaff Worldwide - jennifer@wagstaffworldwide.com or 212.227.7575