

# 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 grew up working in and improving upon Brennan restaurants in her hometown of New Orleans.

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

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 restaurants, including Commander's Palace, Café Adelaide and the Swizzle Stick Bar in New Orleans, and Brennan's of Houston. For her contributions to the New Orleans restaurant community, in 2016 the Louisiana Restaurant Association awarded Brennan the Restaurateur of the Year award along with Ti Martin.

Outside of her restaurant work, 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.

### Select Awards and Honors

- Southern Living's The South's Best Restaurant (2017 - 2019)
- Named to The Power List by Nation's Restaurant News (2019)
- Restaurant of the Year Nola.com | The Times-Picayune (2018)
- James Beard Foundation Awards Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America (2018)
- Food and Wine's 40 Most Important Restaurants (2018)
- Southern Living's The South's Best Restaurant (2017)
- Louisiana Restaurant Association's Restaurateur of the Year (2016)
- New Orleans magazine's Restaurateur of the year (2012)
- Restaurants and Institutions magazine – Ivy Award "Restaurateur of Distinction" (1997)

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact Ashley Miller at Wagstaff Media and Marketing: [amiller@wagstaffmktg.com](mailto:amiller@wagstaffmktg.com) or 212.227.7575