

Ticket alert: Chef Jose Andres to talk Puerto Rico with Ana Navarro in Miami



Jose Andres will discuss his new book, "We Fed an Island," about his efforts to feed storm-ravaged Puerto Rico in 2017, on Sept. 24 at Miami-Dade College's Wolfson Campus auditorium. Ana Navarro will interview the chef. (Matias J. Ocnor / Courtesy)



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Jose Andres, the chef-humanitarian who **mobilized a culinary army to feed Puerto Rico** after Hurricane Maria, is coming to Miami to discuss the book he has written about the experience. It is an event not just for foodies and fans of **his top-notch restaurants**, but for anyone with a heart.

When is Andres appearing?

Andres will have a conversation with **Ana Navarro**, the Miami-based political pundit/TV personality, at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 24, at Miami-Dade College's **Wolfson Campus Auditorium, 300 NE Second Ave.**, Room 1261, in Miami. The congenial chef will also sign copies of the book "We Fed an Island: The True Story of

Rebuilding Puerto Rico, One Meal at a Time,” co-written with Richard Wolffe and to be released Sept. 11. The event is being presented by Books and Books and the Miami Book Fair.

Why is this worthwhile?

Andres, with a thick accent and piercing blue eyes, is one of those rare individuals whose charisma, charm and energy fill any room he inhabits. The Spanish-born chef, who became a U.S. citizen earlier this decade, believes passionately in the power of people (and food) in the face of adversity. The nonprofit he founded after the 2010 Haitian earthquake, World Central Kitchen, has aided relief efforts after countless disasters. Andres went to Puerto Rico on one of the first flights after Maria and quickly enlisted chefs and volunteers to feed hungry survivors. By early 2018, with the help of private donors and numerous government contracts, World Central Kitchen provided more than 3 million meals in Puerto Rico.

How do I get tickets?

Tickets are [available online](#), and the event is a pretty good deal. For \$32.50, you get a copy of Andres’ new book (which you can pick up at the event) and admission for two people to the event. Seating is general admission, so arrive early. A portion of proceeds will go to [World Central Kitchen](#). Free parking will be available in [MDC Building 7](#) on Northeast Fifth Street. There is also plenty of metered street parking at that time of day.

Is this going to be a Trump-bashing festival?

Navarro is no fan of the president (to put it mildly), and Andres has [scrapped with Donald Trump](#) and [criticized FEMA’s response in Puerto Rico](#), so there are bound to be some digs and political talk, particularly in light of the recent [revision of the Hurricane Maria death toll to 2,975](#). But Andres is a pragmatist and businessman who has succeeded with an empire of some 30 restaurants, and his natural default position in the hospitality business is to find common ground and work for the common good. As he told me [in an interview last year](#), “I delivered meals [in Puerto Rico] with the Army, the Coast Guard, the National Guard, Homeland Security. They all were working with us. The men and women of the federal government are the best. They’re smart. If you let them on the ground, they make all the right decisions. ... It’s just that there’s a lot of red tape getting them there. We need to start working on less red tape for next time.”

Why Navarro?

Navarro, the Nicaraguan-born pundit who appears regularly on CNN, ABC and Telemundo, knows Andres well because she splits time between Miami ([where Andres has two restaurants](#)) and Washington, D.C., (his home base) and through their mutual friend [Lee Schragar, the food-festival impresario](#) who runs the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

Will the night be bittersweet?

Although Andres has written an uplifting tale of American can-do spirit and cooperation, the night will be tinged with sadness over lives lost. Besides the 2,975 storm-related victims in Puerto Rico, there is bound to be mention of Andres' friend **Anthony Bourdain**, the chef and **TV travel host who killed himself in June**. Bourdain's fledgling book imprint, Ecco, a division of HarperCollins, is the publisher of "We Fed an Island."

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