



*Words & Music:  
A Literary Feast in New Orleans!*

## Travel to the Big Easy!

### New Orleans

The Big Easy is exactly what the name implies, an historic environment of great laid-back charm and beauty, with a timeless patina of style and creativity, a tolerance born of ethnic diversity, and a population noted for its ability to withstand the ravaging inundations of war, hurricane disasters, economic deprivation, and tropical heat and still come up for air smiling.

New Orleanians, like the soldiers of Napoleon's army, move on their stomachs. With exception of France and Italy, which no doubt are responsible for the addiction to the city's great food, nowhere will you find a population more entranced with and devoted to the business of creating and serving the perfect dish with the perfect accompaniments...and sitting down in good company and eating that perfect dish.

It's fairly well known that New Orleans was founded by the French and governed by the Spanish for the early years of its history before Napoleon sold it to the United States in the Louisiana Purchase. Not so well known is the fact that, after Afro-Americans, who were brought to America from many regions of Africa, the second largest ethnic group in the city is of Italian and Sicilian heritage. New Orleans was the first port of entry for Italians and Sicilians in the great waves of immigration from Europe in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Nor is it generally known that the population is among the most diverse to be found anywhere in the world. Our culture and our food have been enriched by immigrants from Ireland, Scotland, Germany, and Yugoslavia. Sephardic Jews, fleeing religious persecution in Portugal, found their way first to in Canary Islands, then on to Louisiana, where they are known as Isleños. And today, the most vibrant ethnic group, one growing by leaps and bounds, is a multi-faceted one including immigrants from every country in Latin America.

And the New Orleanian goes to bed every night and wakes up in the morning to a rich cacophony of sounds, which find their way in the unique musical offerings that make up The New Orleans Sound. New Orleanians, after years, indeed centuries, of coping with heat and humidity, have learned to pace themselves and, as a result, often are perceived as indolent. The creative outpourings you will witness, however, would not be possible in a truly lazy society. New Orleanians simply move to a different beat. And it is this beat, which sneaks up on the visitor and, ever so easy, takes hold, never to let go.

### The New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation

The New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation is among those organizations which fund efforts to bring the message of New Orleans as an important cultural destination to out-of-state audiences.

**Words & Music** offers entertainment events related to the writers' conference which is the central focus of **Words & Music**. New Orleans, however, has much, much more to offer for those who register for the conference and prefer to plan their own evenings while here.

Music galore, of course! For classical fans, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra plays on the Thursday and Saturday nights of the conference. Jazz, rhythm and blues, soul, rock with such important nightclubs as The House of Blues and Tipitina's offering some of the finest musicians in the country. Salsa and disco can be found late night at the Red Room and elsewhere.

As for Fine Dining, there are literally hundreds of fine dining establishments in this city that first introduced Americans to Cuisine with a capital C. For the latest information on what's going on in the city while you are here, check out the NOTMC's web site at [www.NewOrleansonline.com](http://www.NewOrleansonline.com)

### Literary Guide to The Big Easy

One of the best books on the literary history of New Orleans is by the Book Editor of *The Times-Picayune*, Susan Larson. **The Book Lovers' Guide to New Orleans** makes getting into The Big Easy's literary history, well Easy. (ISBN Number: 8071-2416-8.)

And the man who knows more about the literary history of New Orleans than most is W. Kenneth Holditch, who has written and published extensively on the subject and also gives the most entertaining lectures on the city. **Words & Music** is cooperating with his company, Heritage Tours, Inc., which schedules literary tours of New Orleans during the conference. Holditch can be reached by e-mail, [Kholditch@cox.net](mailto:Kholditch@cox.net) or by telephone, (504) 949-9785.

## More About New Orleans

If you are planning to attend the conference, you may wish to read one or more of the following books about the city. To order with a credit card, call Faulkner House Books, (504) 524-2940. Conference attendees will be given a 10% discount on books ordered from FHB, once registration has been received, so you may opt to simply send your credit card information with a copy of this page with check marks by the books you want when you send in your registration form:

*New Orleans, Mon Amour*. Algonquin, 2006. Collected works about New Orleans by Andrei Codrescu. \$14.  
*My New Orleans: Ballads to the Big Easy by Her Sons, Daughters, and Lovers*. Simon & Schuster/Touchstone, 2006. Edited by Rosemary James, featuring essays by well-known men and women who love New Orleans. \$13. Proceeds benefit PEN and The Faulkner Society.  
*Why New Orleans Matters*. Harper Collins, 2005. Memoir by Tom Piazza. \$14.95.  
*New Orleans Stories: Great Writers in the City*. Chronicle Books, 1992, Edited by John Miller, \$12.95  
*Literary New Orleans: Essays and Meditations*, LSU Press, 1992, Ed. Richard Kennedy, \$9.95  
*Fabulous New Orleans*, Lyle Saxon, Pelican Publishing, \$12.95  
*Gumbo Ya Ya*, Lyle Saxon, Pelican Publishing, \$17.95  
*Feast Of All Saints*, (novel about free people of color), Anne Rice, \$7.99  
The Free People of Color of New Orleans, Mary Gehman, Margaret Media, Inc., 1994, \$8.95  
*Women and New Orleans: A History*, Mary Gehman, Margaret Media, Inc., 1988, \$10.95  
*Beautiful Crescent: A History of New Orleans*, Garvey and Widmer, Garmer Press, 1997, \$15.00  
*Ultimate Guide to New Orleans*, Randolph Delehanty, Chronicle Books, 1998, \$16.95  
*Louisiana: Yesterday and Today: A Historical Guide to the State*, Wilds and Dufour, LSU Press, 1996, \$12.95  
*Frenchmen, Desire, Good Children; and other Streets of New Orleans*, John Churchill Chase, Simon and Schuster, \$13.00  
*National Trust Guide to New Orleans: Architectural and Cultural Treasures*, Roulhac Toledano, Preservation Press, \$17.95  
*French Quarter Manual: Architectural Guide to New Orleans Vieux Carre*  
Malcolm Heard, Tulane School of Architecture, 1997, \$22.00 and \$44.00  
*New Orleans: Elegance and Decadence, Sexton and Delehanty*, Chronicle Books, 1994, \$40.00  
*Storyville, New Orleans: An Authentic, Illustrated Account of the Red-Light District*, Al Rose, Univ. of Alabama Press, \$9.95  
*New Orleans Cemeteries: Life in the Cities of the Dead*, Robert Florence, Batture Press, 1997, \$29.95  
*The Last Frontier of Bohemia: Tennessee Williams in New Orleans*, Kenneth Holditch, \$6.00

## How to Get Here

American, Continental, Southwest, Delta Airlines and US Airways. There are others, of course, but start with these. We strongly recommend that where possible you reserve with Delta Airlines, which has lent its support as a co-presenter of **Words & Music**. You can also travel to New Orleans by train from major cities such as Chicago and New York. And, if you choose to drive, the city is served by major interstate highways connecting to I-10, the major artery in and out of the city.

## Where to Stay

The conference headquarters traditionally has been Hotel Monteleone, 200 Royal St., (504) 523-3341. If you choose to stay at the Hotel Monteleone, tell them when reserving that you are with the Faulkner Society's **Words & Music bloc**. We have a bloc price of \$169 per night. We encourage you to stay at the Hotel Monteleone, which is a co-presenter of **Words & Music** and a national literary landmark. It was the favorite hotel of William Faulkner and F. Scott Fitzgerald as well as Tennessee Williams. It is a very popular hotel with Louisianians as well as tourists, and, if you plan to stay there, book early.

Other hotels within a block or two are: Holiday Inn, Royal Street; Sheraton, Canal Street, Marriott, Canal Street. With these hotels it's important to specify the street, there are multiples in these chains in downtown New Orleans. The Alexa Hotel with entrances on both Royal and Canal; Bienville House on Decatur Street owned by the Hotel Monteleone; and W hotel, in the 300 block of Chartres St. are all very close to Monteleone. Lowe's and Hilton Riverside (on the river at the end of Poydras Street) are a longer walk. Further down into the French Quarter but certainly not too far for walking and closer to come of our evening venues are: Andrew Jackson Hotel, Royal St.; Cornstalk Inn, Royal St; Provincial Hotel, Chartres Street; Omni Bourbon Orleans, (site of the old Creole ballroom), on Orleans, between Bourbon St. and Royal Streets. Bed and Breakfast are not legal in the French Quarter. There are several on Esplanade Avenue however, which is 11 blocks from the Monteleone, where most of the discussions will be taking place. Most are too far for walking.

## What to Wear

November is a quirky month in New Orleans. It can be quite warm, compared to other sections of the country, as New Orleans has a sub-tropical climate. Only rarely would you need a winter coat in November. It can get chilly due to frequent fog and we do have cold front move in from time to time. We suggest bringing layers, including a lightweight trench coat in case of rain or unseasonable chills; several sweaters, and a jacket.

Proper attire for the conference is refined casual or business during the day (as those attending luncheons will not be admitted by the restaurants in shorts or t-shirts). Jeans or casual slacks and nice jackets are fine--you'll be glad of the jacket as the AC in the hotel can be downright cold at times. Refined casual or cocktail/business attire for evening events, black tie optional for the Saturday night gala. For this event, women usually wear dressy cocktail clothes, not long, formal dresses, although some women prefer long dresses. Many men choose to wear a suit rather than black tie, which also is fine.



## Conference Headquarters

The conference will be headquartered at The Hotel Monteleone at 200 Royal St. in the city's historic French Quarter, (800) 535-9595 or (504) 523-3341.

## Questions?

Email us at [info@wordsandmusic.org](mailto:info@wordsandmusic.org) We look forward to seeing you in the Big Easy!

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