

Cinco de Mayo Humor

Inexperienced Chili Taster Visiting from Texas



Notes from an Inexperienced Chili Tester called Dan, who was visiting Mexico from Texas. This is how Dan reported his experience:

'Recently, I was honored to be selected as a judge at a chili cook-off for Cinco De Mayo. The original person called in sick at the last moment and I happened to be standing there at the judge's table asking directions to the beer wagon, when the call came. The other two judges (Native Mexicans) assured me that the chili wouldn't be all that spicy, and besides, they told me I could have free beer during the tasting. So I accepted.'

Here are the scorecards for the eight Chili samples that were submitted for judging by Mike, Carlos, Fred, Bubba, Linda, Vera, Ana, and Lester.



Chili # 1 Mike's Mild Chili

JUDGE ONE: A little too heavy on tomato. Amusing kick.

JUDGE TWO: Nice, smooth tomato flavor. Very mild.

DAN: Crikey, what the heck is this stuff? You could remove dried paint from your driveway with it. Took me two beers to put the flames out. I hope that's the worst one.

Chili # 2 Carlos's Afterburner Chili

JUDGE ONE: Smokey, with a hint of pork. Slight Jalapeno tang.

JUDGE TWO: Exciting BBQ flavor, needs more peppers to be taken seriously.

DAN: Keep this out of the reach of children. I'm not sure what I am supposed to taste besides pain. I had to wave off two people who wanted to give me the Heimlich maneuver. They had to rush in more beer when they saw the look on my face.



Chili # 3 Fred's Famous Burn-Down-The Barn Chili

JUDGE ONE: Excellent firehouse chili! Great kick. Needs more beans.

JUDGE TWO: A beanless chili, a bit salty, good use of peppers.

DAN: Call the EPA, I've located a uranium spill. My nose feels like I have been snorting Drano. Everyone knows the routine by now, get me more beer before I ignite. Barmaid pounded me on the back; now my backbone is in the front part of my chest. Whew, the beer is good stuff.

Chili # 4 Bubba's Black Magic

JUDGE ONE: Black bean chili with almost no spice. Disappointing.

JUDGE TWO: Hint of lime in the black beans. Good side dish for fish or other mild foods, not much of a chili.

DAN: I felt something scraping across my tongue, but was unable to taste it. Is it possible to burnout taste buds? Maybe with this nuclear waste I'm eating? Sally, the barmaid, is standing behind me with fresh refills.



Chili # 5 Linda's Legal Lip Remover

JUDGE ONE: Meaty, strong chili. Cayenne peppers freshly ground, adding considerable kick. Very Impressive.

JUDGE TWO: Chili using shredded beef, could use more tomato. Must admit the cayenne peppers make a strong statement.

DAN: My ears are ringing, sweat is pouring off my forehead, and I can no longer focus my eyes. The contestant seemed offended when I told her that her chili had given me brain damage. Sally saved my tongue from bleeding by pouring beer directly on it from a pitcher. I wonder if I'm burning my lips off? It really cheeses me off that the other judges asked me to stop screaming.

Chili # 6 Vera's Very Vegetarian Variety

JUDGE ONE: Thin yet bold vegetarian variety chili. Good balance of spice and peppers.

JUDGE TWO: The best yet. Aggressive use of peppers, onions, and garlic. Superb.



DAN: My intestines are now a straight pipe filled with gaseous, sulphuric flames. No one seems inclined to stand behind me. Can't feel my lips anymore. I need to wipe my mouth with a snow cone!



Chili # 7 Ana's Screaming Sensation Chili

JUDGE ONE: A mediocre chili with too much reliance on canned peppers.

JUDGE TWO: Ho Hum, tastes as if the chef literally threw in a can of chili peppers at the last moment. I should take note that I am worried about Judge Number 3, He appears to be in a bit of distress as he is cursing uncontrollably.

DAN: You could put a grenade in my mouth, pull the pin, and I wouldn't feel a darn thing. I've lost sight in one eye, and the world sounds like it is made of rushing water. My shirt is covered with chili, which slid unnoticed out of my mouth. At least during the autopsy they'll know what killed me. I've decided to stop breathing; it's too painful. Stuff it. I'm not getting any oxygen anyway. If I need air, I'll just suck it in through the 4-inch hole in my stomach.

Chili # 8 Lester's Last of the Red-Hot Lover's Chili

JUDGE ONE: A perfect ending, this is a nice blend chili, safe for all, not too bold, but spicy enough to declare its existence.

JUDGE TWO: This final entry is a good, balanced chili. Neither mild nor hot. Sorry to see that most of it was lost when Judge Number 3 passed out, fell over, and pulled the chili pot down on top of himself. Not sure if he's going to make it. Poor Yank, wonder how he'd have reacted to a really hot chili?

