

30-MINUTE MEALS! NOW MORE MAJOR THAN EVER

HIT-THE-SPOT **SOUPS** p.154

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FEST FORWARD

Spring has sprung—and so have the first of the season's outdoor festivals. Our experts weigh in on how to maximize your fun at some of the classics.

food Go early and head straight for the highlights: "The more professionally decorated booths tend to have the best food," says Drew Cerza, creator of the National Buffalo Wing Festival. "Look for clues like signs saying 'established since'—anything with a story or a persona attached should be a decent bet." our pick 25th Annual Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Fest, Austin, Texas, April 15–18.

music There'll be multiple stages with conflicting lineups, so you won't be able to see everything. Decide which bands are must-sees before you go. "Otherwise, you'll always feel like you're missing something," says Nancy Schafer, executive director of the Tribeca Film Festival. But be flexible enough to ditch plans and stick around for a rockin' set here or there. our pick Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, Indio, California, April 16-18.

beer Pace yourself. If you drink too much of the same beer, you'll end up sluggish and won't get to sample the others. "Bring three or four people, then divide and conquer the booths," says Cerza. "You can all sample each other's without getting too full or too tipsy."

our pick World Beer Festival, Raleigh, North Carolina, April 24.

FLIGHT DELAY?

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