



FOR: **BON APPÉTIT PRESENTS CHICAGO GOURMET**

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POP THE CORK: CHICAGO GOURMET TURNS 10!

Pre-Sale Tickets Go On Sale Wednesday, April 12

I. II. III. IV. V. VI. VII. VIII. IX. X. Decade. Ten. X. Break out the bubbly, pop the cork and get ready for **Decadence** as [Bon Appétit presents Chicago Gourmet](#) turns 10 in 2017! The spring pre-sale is upon us with tickets available for purchase beginning Wednesday, April 12.

In addition to the wildly popular Grand Tasting main event September 23-24, Chicago Gourmet – founded and produced by the [Illinois Restaurant Association](#) with title sponsor [Bon Appétit magazine](#) and presenting sponsor [Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits of Illinois](#) – is expanding to commemorate the big 1-0 with a weeklong, jam-packed citywide showcase of food, wine and fun the week of September 18. The series, entitled **eXtraordinary chefs – eXtraordinary places**, will feature a thrilling lineup of ancillary events, both large and intimate, in some of Chicago's most treasured locales.

"We are immensely proud of how Chicago Gourmet has evolved over the years," said Sam Toia, President and CEO of the Illinois Restaurant Association. "It is truly encompassing of Chicago's robust culinary community, and we're humbled by the outpouring of support from our partner chefs year after year, and by our loyal attendees who keep coming back for more. We can't wait to see what the next ten years bring!"

A Decade of Gourmet.

So much can happen in 10 years! Since its 2008 inception, Chicago Gourmet has matured into a nationally recognized food and wine festival with the continued support of acclaimed chef partners who have championed the celebration since day one. The 2017 lineup includes many of the

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distinguished chefs from the inaugural year – including Graham Elliot, Rick Bayless, Stephanie Izard, Paul Kahan, Art Smith, Carrie Nahabedian, Tony Mantuano, Mindy Segal, Takashi Yagihashi – and national celebrity talent including [Curtis Stone](#), [Carla Hall](#), [Jeff Mauro](#) and many others. They, alongside their peers, will deliver a spirited weekend filled with tastings, cooking demonstrations, book signings and more. With the expertise of presenting sponsor [Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits of Illinois](#), several of the nation's master sommeliers, leading mixologists and notable brewmasters will help guests toast to the milestone year with trend-savvy educational seminars, beverage pairings and much more. Plus, the coveted Grand Cru presented by [Celebrity Cruises](#)—the exclusive event within the event—will feature pours of some of the world's finest wines and tastings from leading Chicago chefs atop the Harris Theater.

COMING IN 2017: eXtraordinary chefs – eXtraordinary places

Proudly showcasing Chicago chefs and some of the city's most stunning architectural and natural locales, the **eXtraordinary chefs – eXtraordinary places** collection will expand the reach of Chicago Gourmet into new neighborhoods and into iconic buildings. All held the week of September 18 with support from [Chicago Architecture Foundation](#) and the [Frank Lloyd Wright Trust](#), foodies will experience the Windy City's finest chefs as they present rare experiential opportunities around the city – from cocktail-focused happy hours to strolling tastings to intimate seated dinners. Plan on notable Chicago host sites such as:

- The Crown at Tribune Tower
- Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House
- The Chicago Riverwalk
- The 606
- The Park at Wrigley
- Willis Tower Skydeck
- Jay Pritzker Pavilion Stage
- The Harris Theater Rooftop
- And others

Event information including ticket sale and pricing details for **eXtraordinary chefs – eXtraordinary places** will be released at a later date.

The Countdown Is ON.

Set your alarms, because the highly anticipated pre-sale opens **Wednesday, April 12 at 10 a.m. CST** at www.chicagogourmet.org. While supplies last, tickets will be available at **\$148 per person, per day, or \$275 per person for a Weekend Pass**. This pricing represents a substantial savings over regularly priced tickets, which are \$185 per person, per day, or \$295 per person for a Weekend Pass.

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NOTE: Regularly priced tickets will immediately become available as pre-sale tickets sell out. Ticket sales for the Hamburger Hop, Rise & Shine Gourmet and other events in the **eXtraordinary chefs – eXtraordinary places collection will be announced in the near future.*

Chicago Gourmet is one of the nation's largest and most celebrated culinary events, proudly produced by the [Illinois Restaurant Association](#). With more than 250 restaurants and chefs, as well as hundreds of renowned vintners, spirit makers and premium breweries from presenting sponsor [Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits of Illinois](#), this interactive, epicurean affair showcases many of the finest in the culinary world. It also includes a multitude of live cooking demonstrations, wine and cocktail seminars, gourmet tastings and book signings by internationally renowned chefs, Master Sommeliers, winemakers and more.

For more details, visit www.chicagogourmet.org. Specific questions regarding ticket sales may be directed to info@chicagogourmet.org or (312) 787-4000 ext. 140.

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ABOUT BON APPÉTIT PRESENTS CHICAGO GOURMET

Chicago Gourmet, the nation's premier culinary experience aimed at promoting Chicago's world-class culinary community, returns to Millennium Park September 23-24, 2017. Celebrating its tenth anniversary year, organizers will also present **eXtraordinary chefs – eXtraordinary places**, a range of thrilling culinary events held in Chicago's most iconic locales the week of September 18. Chicago Gourmet was created by the [Illinois Restaurant Association](#) to celebrate and honor both Chicago's culinary achievements and the creative vision of the chefs, Master Sommeliers, and wine-, spirit-, and beer-makers who participate. It also spotlights Chicago as an international culinary destination via its unparalleled epicurean talent. Chicago Gourmet would not be possible without the support of title sponsor *Bon Appétit* magazine and presenting sponsor Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, LLC. For more information, please visit www.chicagogourmet.org and follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Snapchat](#).

ABOUT BON APPÉTIT

Bon Appétit is where food and culture meet. The award-winning No. 1 food lifestyle brand covers food through the lens of cooking, fashion, travel, design, and home. Under editor in chief Adam Rapoport, the brand has been nominated for 18 National Magazine Awards, including wins in 2014 for General Excellence and Photography; 12 James Beard Foundation Journalism Awards; and more than 50 Society of Publication Designers (SPD) nominations including design, photography, and Magazine of the Year.

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Under Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer Pamela Drucker Mann, the magazine was named the Advertising Age A-List Magazine of the Year in 2013 and “One to Watch” in 2014, and has been Adweek’s Food Magazine of the Year in 2012, 2013, and 2014. Please visit www.bonappetit.com.

ABOUT SOUTHERN GLAZER’S WINE & SPIRITS, LLC

Since its 1968 inception, Southern Wine & Spirits of America, Inc. (Southern), has been the nation’s leader in wine and spirits distribution with operations in 35 states and over 14,000 employees. In 2016, it was announced that Glazer’s, Inc. – the fourth largest distributor based in Dallas, Texas – would form a definitive agreement with Southern, creating the first truly North American wine and spirits distributor. The new company, Southern Glazer’s Wine and Spirits, LLC (Southern Glazer) will employ over 21,000 people and have a national distribution footprint in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and the Caribbean. With its combined leadership team and proud family-owned legacy, Southern Glazer will represent over 90% of the legal-drinking age population and distribute more than 150 million cases annually. In doing so, they will maintain their historic commitment to delivering the highest standards of customer service and creative marketing programs and partnerships. Southern Glazer’s is also deeply rooted in social responsibility, establishing itself as a corporate citizen with generous contributions to national, state and local charitable entities. Locally, the company’s commitment to trade education will continue to expand through the use of the Southern Hospitality Center in Chicago, which serves thousands of active members of the restaurant, bar and retail trade with premier education and training programs – ultimately raising the quality of the consumer experience around the state. For more information visit www.southernwine.com.

About the Illinois Restaurant Association

Founded in 1914, the Illinois Restaurant Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, protecting, educating and improving the restaurant industry in Illinois. The IRA owns and produces [Chicago Gourmet](#) – the annual food and wine festival held in Millennium Park that unites hundreds of restaurants, chefs and beverage experts for a weekend filled with food and drink tastings, entertainment, cooking demonstrations, book signings, interactive seminars and more. The Association is a proud host of the [James Beard Foundation Awards](#), which will be held in Chicago through 2021 and celebrates excellence in cuisine, culinary writing, and culinary education throughout the country. For more information about the Illinois Restaurant Association, visit www.illinoisrestaurants.org and follow on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).