



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR:** [Illinois Restaurant Association](#)  
33 W. Monroe, Suite 250  
Chicago, IL 60603  
(312) 787-4000  
[www.facebook.com/illinoisrestaurants](http://www.facebook.com/illinoisrestaurants)  
[@IlliniRestAssoc](#)

**CONTACT:** Blythe Beaubien | Janet Isabelli  
[Isabelli Media Relations](#)  
(312) 878-1222  
[blythe@imrchicago.com](mailto:blythe@imrchicago.com) | [janet@imrchicago.com](mailto:janet@imrchicago.com)

---

**ILLINOIS RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS THE CHEF'S TABLE:  
THE 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RESTAURATEURS FOR EDUCATION GALA**

***An Evening of Retro Las Vegas!***

(CHICAGO, IL – November 2015) – The [Illinois Restaurant Association](#) is bringing a bit of Sin City to Chicago with The Chef's Table: Restaurateurs for Education presented by Eurest – a Division of Compass Group, Sysco – Chicago, and Sam Adams. The 38<sup>th</sup> annual gala, an evening themed as Retro Las Vegas, takes place **Friday, November 6, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.** at the [Hyatt Regency Chicago](#) (151 E. Wacker Drive). Celebrating Chicago's unparalleled food service industry, attendees will go all in and feast on signature savory and sweet dishes from the city's top restaurants while benefiting students who dream of pursuing a career in the hospitality industry.

Proceeds from the event benefit the [Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation](#) Scholarship Initiative and statewide [ProStart®](#) program. The mission of the Educational Foundation is to build the state's hospitality workforce through career exploration, development programs, and scholarships. Since its inception, over \$2.5 million in scholarships have been awarded.

"The Chef's Table is one of the largest fundraising events that we produce and is an important way to support students as they further their education and advance in the industry," said Illinois Restaurant Association President & CEO Sam Toia. "We encourage everyone to don their best retro Vegas attire and help make a difference for our next generation of restaurant and hospitality leaders!"

The evening will include a cocktail reception with handcrafted cocktails from some of Chicago's top mixologists, dozens of chef tables presenting an array of signature dishes, an impressive silent auction, networking opportunities and Las Vegas-style entertainment with Blackjack, Craps and Roulette tables.

Participants include:

**Mixologists:**

Rudy Matic, The Brixton  
*Vegas, Absolutely*  
Melissa Guadalupe, Maple & Ash  
*Jimmy's Bluff*  
Al Klopper, The Copa Room  
*The Copa Room*  
Sherri Bradley, Spirits Bartending Service LLC  
*No Regrets*  
Thomas Mooneyham, Bar Deville  
*Parisian Charm*  
Natalia Cardenas, Southern Wine & Spirits of Illinois  
*Rat Pack at the Sands*

**Dinner Stations:**

Ill Forks  
Acanto/The Gage  
Barn & Co.  
Buckhead Beef & Seafood  
Eurest Dining  
Gaylord Fine Indian Cuisine  
Howells & Hood  
I | O Urban Rooftop at The Godfrey Hotel  
Mercadito Kitchen  
Mexique Inc.  
MOTO  
Old Fifth  
Old Town Pour House  
Pinstripes  
Red Door  
River Roast  
Rosebud Restaurants  
Stetsons Modern Steak + Sushi  
Tallboy Taco  
Tavern on Rush  
TWO  
Untitled Supper Club  
Wicker Park Seafood & Sushi

**Dessert Stations:**

Blue Agave Tequila Bar & Restaurant  
Bow Truss Coffee Roasters  
Kendall College  
Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Chicago  
Spin-Spun  
The Eli's Cheesecake Company  
The Illinois Institute of Art – Chicago

The cost to attend is \$250 per person, and tickets may be purchased at [www.illinoisrestaurants.org](http://www.illinoisrestaurants.org). The IRAEF is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. \$150 of each ticket is deductible as a charitable donation.

The Chef's Table would not be possible without the generosity of the following sponsors: [Eurest - A Division of Compass Group](#), [Sysco - Chicago](#), [Sam Adams](#), [Southern Wine & Spirits of Illinois](#), [Alpha Baking Company](#), [Premier Restaurant Group](#), [Texas de Brazil](#), [Assurance Agency](#), [Ecolab](#), [HMS Host](#), [Hyatt Regency Chicago](#), [Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises](#), [Plante Moran](#), [The Cubby Bear](#), [The Grove, Inc. \(TGI\)](#), [The Signature Room at the 95<sup>th</sup>](#), [Turano Baking Company](#), and [US Foods](#).

#### **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. For more information, visit [www.illinoisrestaurants.org](http://www.illinoisrestaurants.org) and follow on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

#### **About the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation**

The Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) dedicated to building the Illinois hospitality workforce through career exploration, workforce development programs and scholarships. ProStart® is a national school-to-careers program that prepares high school students for careers in foodservice and hospitality management. ProStart® in Illinois is administered by the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation to over 4,000 students at 62 schools in the Chicagoland area. Students have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials and articulated credits for college while in high school. The Foundation provides work readiness training and connects students with industry professionals through job shadowing and internships to help hone their skills in the foodservice industry. The ProStart® program is also offered in all 50 states encompassing more than 120,00 high school students in more than 2,000 high schools. For more information, visit [www.nraef.org](http://www.nraef.org).

###