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Austin Food + Wine Festival Announces *Fire Pit & Chef Showcase Schedules*

Eighth Annual Festival to Feature Top Pitmasters, Chefs & Restaurants from Across Texas

Austin, TX (March 5, 2019) – Austin Food + Wine Festival is pleased to announce the **Fire Pit** and **Chef Showcase** schedules for the eighth annual festival, April 26-28, 2019. Fire Pits and Chef Showcase offer all Festival ticket holders a unique front-row experience to meet and mingle with some of Texas' best pitmasters and chefs throughout the weekend: www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com/tickets.

Fire Pits

The festival grounds at Auditorium Shores will feature interactive areas where pitmasters and chefs will cook over live fire and offer tastes to attendees throughout the day on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28, 2019. Offering multiple stations daily, the Fire Pits will provide interactive experiences and dishes that have been prepared over live fire. Less structured than a demo, the Fire Pits provide a forum for culinary Q&A, and an opportunity to taste the chefs' bold creations, including whole-roasted meats, ash-cooked vegetables, and much more.

"Austin Food + Wine is one of our favorite festivals and one of the best parties of the year," says pitmaster **Lance Kirkpatrick**, Stiles Switch BBQ & Brew. "This year, we're excited to be a part of the Fire Pits on Saturday with our barbecue friends and we'll be in the tents Sunday serving some of our signature menu items. Don't miss it!"

On **Saturday, April 27**, enjoy fire-roasted dishes from chefs **Evan LeRoy** (LeRoy and Lewis) and **Lance Kirkpatrick** (Stiles Switch BBQ & Brew). On **Sunday, April 28**, Fire Pit chefs will include: **Sonya Coté** (Eden East Restaurant & Farm, Hillside Farmacy) and **Wayne Mueller** (Louie Mueller Barbecue).

Contigo Catering and Friends

New this year, Contigo Catering and Friends will offer an expanded fire pit experience helmed by Contigo Catering chefs **Freddy Diaz** and **Andrew Wiseheart** with more special guests to be announced.

Chef Showcase

The festival will feature a dynamic roster of some of Texas' most beloved and acclaimed chefs, each serving samples of signature dishes to festival attendees, on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28, 2019, at Auditorium Shores. Interspersed between wine, spirits & beer purveyors, artisans and lifestyle vendors, the Chef Showcase allows attendees to meet their favorite chefs while tasting inspired dishes that put each chef on the map.



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“We are incredibly excited to represent Marfa and showcase some of our favorite West Texas flavors,” says **Alexandra Gates**, chef & owner, Cochineal Marfa. “Having called Austin home for over a decade, it’s an honor to return to the Capitol City and take part in one of the top culinary events in the state — the Austin Food + Wine Festival!

On **Saturday, April 27**, chefs and restaurants scheduled to participate include: **Jeff Balfour** (Southerleigh Fine Food & Brewery); **John Bates & Brandon Martinez** (Noble Sandwich Co.); **Stephen Bonin** (Geraldine's); **Jeff Brown** (Old Thousand); **David Bull** (Second Bar + Kitchen); **Ji Peng Chen** (Wu Chow); **Brandon Fuller** (Jacoby's Restaurant & Mercantile); **Alexandra Gates**; **Sarah Heard & Nathan Lemley** (Foreign & Domestic); **Ethan Holmes** (Mattie's); **Clinton Kendall** (East Side King); **Jason McVeary & Trisha Fortuna** (Poke Poke); **Brian Moses** (Olive & June); **Josh Neises** (Lonesome Dove); **Daniel Olivella** (Barlata); **Eric Silverstein** (The Peached Tortilla); **Anthony Sobotik** (Lick Honest Ice Creams); **Lakana Sopajan-Trubiana** (DEE DEE); **Allen Stewart** (Grizzelda's); **Kevin Williamson** (Ranch 616); and **Ling Qi Wu** (Lin Asian Bar + Dim Sum).

"Austin Food + Wine Festival is one of my favorite events year after year," says **Geronimo Lopez**, chef & owner, Botika at Pearl in San Antonio. “The gathering of regional talent allows us to showcase our creativity and engage with amazing chefs while tasting culinary masterpieces that span our cities.”

On **Sunday, April 28**, chefs and restaurants scheduled to participate include: **Ernest Benitez** (Ajo); **Daniel Brooks** (Licha's Cantina); **Thomas Calhoun** (Lenoir); **Jo Chan** (Eberly); **Graham Dodds** (Wild Kitchen + Bar); **Taylor Hall** (Apis); **Victor Ibarra** (Andiamo); **Lance Kirkpatrick** (Stiles Switch BBQ & Brew); **Geronimo Lopez**; **Margarita & Nestor Mendez** (Pueblo Viejo); **Ashley Neave** (Forthright); **David Norman** (Easy Tiger Bake Shop & Beer Garden); **Edgar Rico** (Nixta Taqueria); **Chris Rios** (The Vegan Nom); **Maribel Rivero** (Yuyo); **James Robert** (Fixe); **Jose Raul Castillo & Joseph Gleeson** (Hopfields); **Ryan Samson** (Vespiao); **Charles Schlienger** (Sway); **Carmen Valera** (Tamale House East).

Additional programming announcements will be made over the course of the spring; please visit www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com for more information and updates.

The *All-In* ticket is \$625/per person and includes Saturday and Sunday Festival access; over 40 culinary demos; beer, wine and cocktail tasting sessions; access to the expanded Fire Pits; including the Chef Showcase; a special Sunday Gospel Brunch; Grillin' and Chillin'; and entrance to Saturday night's *Rock Your Taco*.

The *Weekender* ticket is \$250/per person and includes Saturday and Sunday Festival access; over 40 culinary demos; beer, wine and cocktail tasting sessions; access to the expanded Fire Pits; including the Chef Showcase; and a special Sunday Gospel Brunch.

Feast Under the Stars tickets are \$250/per person and provide access to the intimate outdoor pre-festival dinner celebration at Auditorium Shores. The dinner includes a five-course family-style meal, wine pairings and parking.

All-In and *Weekender* tickets can be purchased at www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com/tickets. All attendees must be 21 years of age or older. For more information, please visit www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com, or follow us on Instagram [@austinfoodwine](https://www.instagram.com/austinfoodwine), Twitter [@austinfoodwine](https://twitter.com/austinfoodwine) and [Facebook.com/austinfoodwine](https://www.facebook.com/austinfoodwine).

For press credentials, please fill out the online application here: <http://www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com/press-application/>

The Austin Food + Wine Festival is generously sponsored by Toyota, HEB, Monogram Appliances, Republic National Distributing Company, Stella Artois and FOOD & WINE.

About Austin Food + Wine Festival:



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The Austin Food + Wine Festival marks a compelling collaboration between C3 Presents and some of Texas' most exciting chefs and restaurateurs, including Tim Love, *Iron Chef Champion* and co-host of *CNBC's Restaurant Startup*, as well as owner/chef of TLC Catering, The Lonesome Dove Western Bistro, Love Shack, White Elephant Saloon, Queenie's Steakhouse, and The Woodshed Smokehouse across Texas and Tennessee, and Restaurateur Jesse Herman. C3 Presents is the Austin-based event company that produces Lollapalooza in Chicago's Grant Park, and Austin City Limits Music Festival in Austin's Zilker Park. The Austin Food + Wine Festival will take place April 26-28, 2019, bringing an array of taste, talent and culinary entertainment to the Capital City. Please visit www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com for future details on the event.

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