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## ***Fire Pit Chefs & Schedule Announced at Austin Food + Wine Festival***

Expanded Interactive Live-Fire Stations Featuring Top Chefs & Pitmasters from Texas and Beyond  
at the Seventh Annual Festival, April 27-29, 2018

Austin, TX (March 6, 2018) – The Austin Food + Wine Festival is pleased to announce the all-star schedule of acclaimed chefs and pitmasters from Brooklyn, Charleston and Texas scheduled to cook at the expanded *Fire Pits* at the seventh annual festival, April 27-29, 2018: [www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com/tickets](http://www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com/tickets).

The festival grounds at Auditorium Shores will feature an interactive area where chefs will cook over live Fire Pits and offer tastes to attendees throughout the weekend. Offering multiple stations daily, the expanded Fire Pits will provide interactive experiences cooking with live fire from local and national pitmasters and chefs. Less structured than a demo, and more intimate than the hands-on grilling classes, 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.

"Sitting around a fire pit is a great way to participate in a culinary event," says **Sonya Coté** (Eden East, Hillside Farmacy). "It slows down time where you can curate the heat, share information with your fellow chefs and the public, and really feel good about the whole process. From my childhood participating in clambakes in Rhode Island, to cooking wild game all over Texas, I love the ability to grill and smoke all sorts of food, slow down and chat with everyone around the fire."

The Fire Pits will showcase multiple chefs on Saturday and Sunday, each offering a front-row experience cooking with live fire to all festival ticket holders. On Saturday, April 28, enjoy fire-roasted dishes from chefs **David Bull** (Second Bar + Kitchen, La Corsha Hospitality Group); **Sonya Coté** (Eden East, Hillside Farmacy); **Jennifer Nguyen** (Parkside Projects); and **Rodney Scott** (Rodney Scott's BBQ; Charleston, SC).

"I'm excited to bring a little bit of South Carolina to Texas, where I hear everything is bigger!," says **Rodney Scott** (Rodney Scott's BBQ; Charleston, SC). "I won't mind getting to eat all that beef and brisket down there, while also being able to share some of our pork at the festival, too. Cooking with live fire is the way we do it!"

On Sunday, April 29, Fire Pit chefs will include: **Billy Durney** (Hometown Bar-B-Que; Brooklyn, NY); **Evan LeRoy** (LeRoy and Lewis); **Wayne Mueller** (Louie Mueller Barbecue); and **Andrew Wiseheart** (Contigo, Contigo Catering, Chicon).

"There's nothing better than the sound of wood cracking in a silent night and the smell of meat in the air for a mile," says **Billy Durney**, Hometown Bar-B-Que owner & firemaker. "Tending fires for 15 plus hours a night is done by a dynamic group of men and women who crush themselves physically and mentally every day for what they HOPE after all those hours is well seasoned, tender barbecue. We can't wait to bring our passion to you at the Fire Pits."



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“We love cooking with live fire for a crowd so we’re excited to be participating in this year’s event working alongside such talented chefs,” says **Evan LeRoy**, LeRoy and Lewis chef & pitmaster. “The cooler the cooking rig, the more engaged attendees are and we expect everyone to bring their A-game!”

Additional programming announcements will be made over the course of the spring; please visit [www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com](http://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; all-day access to the Grand Taste Pavilion, 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; all-day access to the Grand Taste Pavilion, including the Chef Showcase; and a special Sunday Gospel Brunch.

*All-In* and *Weekender* tickets can be purchased at [www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com/tickets](http://www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com/tickets). All attendees must be 21 years of age or older. For more information, please visit [www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com](http://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 FOOD & WINE, Republic National Distributing, Barilla, Toyota and KitchenAid.

**About Austin Food + Wine Festival:**

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 27-29, 2018, bringing an array of taste, talent and culinary entertainment to the Capital City. Please visit [www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com](http://www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com) for future details on the event.

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