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Austin Food + Wine Festival Announces Chef Showcase Schedule *Grand Taste Pavilion to Feature 40 of Texas' Best Chefs and Restaurants*

Austin, TX (February 27, 2018) – The Austin Food + Wine Festival is pleased to announce the **Chef Showcase** schedule for the seventh annual festival: <http://www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com>. The **Chef Showcase** will feature a dynamic roster of 40 local chefs and restaurants serving samples of signature dishes to festivalgoers in the Grand Taste Pavilion at Auditorium Shores on Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29, 2018.

“Austin has a tight-knit food and wine community, but we all stay busy that I enjoy catching up with friends and colleagues at the Austin Food + Wine Festival and sharing our current projects,” says **David Norman**, Easy Tiger Head Dough Puncher & Partner. “Visiting chefs from around the country – some old friends and others new – also bring ideas and inspiration to town. This year, Easy Tiger will present a taste of a German beer garden tradition with our popular pretzels and our take on a *Wurstsalat* (sausage salad).”

Stephanie McClenny of Confituras Little Kitchen says “As the owner of a brand-new brick and mortar, Confituras Little Kitchen, and a first-time Chef Showcase participant, we are doubly thrilled to be showing off the locally sourced fruit and heritage grains we utilize at our jam & biscuit shop in South Austin to a wider audience!”

On **Saturday, April 28**, Chef Showcase participants are scheduled to include: **Stephen Bonin** (Geraldine’s); **Jeff Brown** (Old Thousand); **Louis Ciolla** (Salt & Time); **James Cole** (Jacoby’s Restaurant & Mercantile); **Austin Ewald** (Grizzelda’s); **Natalie Gazau** (Eberly); **Sarah Heard & Nathan Lemley** (Foreign & Domestic); **Clinton Kendall** (East Side King); **Lance Kirkpatrick** (Stiles Switch BBQ & Brew); **Stephanie McClenny** (Confituras); **Jason McVeary & Trisha Fortuna** (Poke Poke); **Josh Neises** (Lonesome Dove Western Bistro Austin); **David Norman** (Easy Tiger Bake Shop & Beer Garden); **James Robert** (Fixe); **Charles Schlienger** (Sway); **Eric Silverstein** (The Peached Tortilla); **Jason Stude** (Boiler Nine Bar + Grill); **Joshua Thomas** (Mattie’s at Green Pastures); **Miguel Vidal** (Valentina’s Tex Mex BBQ); and **Kevin Williamson** (Ranch 616).

“I think this is a great opportunity for Mattie’s at Green Pastures to be featured among the other great restaurants in Austin and to give festivalgoers the chance to see the wonderful transformation that has taken place with the newly reopened restaurant and iconic event space,” says chef **Joshua Thomas** of Mattie’s at Green Pastures.

On **Sunday, April 29**, the Chef Showcase is scheduled to feature: **Jeff Balfour** (Southerleigh); **John Bates & Brandon Martinez** (Noble Sandwich Co.); **Thomas Calhoun** (Aviary Wine & Kitchen); **Taylor Chambers** (Justine’s Brasserie); **Ji Peng Chen** (Wu Chow); **Kazu Fukumoto** (Fukumoto: Sushi and Yakitori Izakaya); **Taylor Hall** (Apis); **Sarah Heard & Nathan Lemley** (Foreign & Domestic); **Geronimo Lopez** (Botika); **Harold Marmulstein** (Salty Sow); **Brian Moses** (Olive & June);



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Ashley Neave (Forthright); **Daniel Olivella** (Barlata); **Sterling Ridings** (Guild); **Maribel Rivero** (Yuyo); **Max Snyder** (Pitchfork Pretty); **Anthony Sobotik** (Lick Honest Ice Creams); **George Thomas** (Unit-D Pizzeria); **Carmen Valera** (Tamale House East); and **Kevin Williamson** (Ranch 616).

"I am beyond excited to share in the spirit of Austin Food + Wine's Chef Showcase this year," says **Maribel Rivero**, Yuyo executive chef. "Being a new restaurant in Austin, I am grateful for the opportunity to share in the camaraderie of the city's most notable chefs and look forward to presenting Yuyo's signature dishes and bold Peruvian flavors to festivalgoers."

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; 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. 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 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 for future details on the event.

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