



Summit Wine & Food Festival 2011 Chef Lineup Announced

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SUMMIT WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL
417 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 277-6565 info@summitwineandfood.com
www.summitwineandfood.com

Don't let the distance make you miss out in September...we have some travel tips to make your excursion to Summit, New Jersey a breeze. The Third Annual Summit Wine & Food Festival will take

place from September 9th through September 11th on the grounds of The Summit Grand Hotel (570 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ, 908-273-3000, www.summitgrand.com). And if you're coming from out of town don't worry! From trains to cabs we've got you covered! Tickets for the festival can be purchased through the festival's website www.summitwineandfood.com. Each event is priced individually so participants can make up their own culinary experience for the weekend.

The exciting chef lineup has also just been finalized and tickets are on sale now! Some of the notable names taking part include James Beard Award winner and Top Chef Masters contestant Douglas Rodriguez, Executive Chef of the newly opened Neely's Barbecue Parlor in New York City Wade Burch, celebrated cookbook author and multiple James Beard nominee Pichet Ong, critically-acclaimed New Jersey chef James Laird, Big Lou Elrose of WildWood Barbecue in NYC, Cooking Channel star Alex Garcia (of Melting Pot), Next Iron Chef runner-up Jehangir Mehta, and nutritionist, personal chef, cookbook author, and television personality Diane Hendericks.

Set among the rolling hills of picturesque Union County and built by expert European craftsmen, The Grand Summit will never taste the same as when these talented toques from New York City, New Jersey, and other parts of the country get together to make culinary magic happen. The Grand Summit Hotel has provided a haven of personal service in the tradition of the finest historic country inns for over a century. This picturesque backdrop is a stunning setting for a weekend of imbibing in the finer things in life.

The festival consists of 3 days of gala tastings, culinary classes, wine, craft beer and cheese discussions, as well as cookbook signings. Guests arrive on Friday evening and can begin to hob nob with their favorite chefs as they wander through the ballroom, where chefs host

tables and serve delicious morsels of signature dishes. Participating in the Friday night "Gala Tasting" event will be Maricel Presilla, Anthony Bucco, James Laird, Diane Pinder, Colt Taylor, Francesco Palmieri, Ramiro Jimenez, Andrew Dicaldo, Anthony Goncalves, Sue Torres, Julian Medina, Bill Dorrier, Scott Snyder, Charles Burke, and Douglas Rodriguez.

The weekend heats up on Saturday as sommeliers take the stand to inform, educate, and most importantly taste various varietals of wine. From Barolo to Zinfandel, these sessions are a must for anyone who's always wanted to know about wine but was afraid to ask. Back by popular demand, The Summit "Sommelier Showdown" will once again feature top sommeliers competing against each other for top honors while those watching the competition enjoy a three-course luncheon paired with fabulous wines. Stated to take part in the showdown are Thomas Ciszak and Bill Zucosky.

On Saturday night it's back to the chefs with the Summit Gala Dinner, a six-course lavish meal prepared by some of the best names in the Country. James Beard Award winner and Top Chef Masters contestant Douglas Rodriguez will be on hand for some Nuevo Latino cooking; other culinary personalities taking part in the Gala Dinner will be Dennis Foy, John Tesar, Next Iron Chef runner-up Jehangir Mehta, Pichet Ong, and David Drake.

Sunday's main event, the "Caja China Cookout Competition," is an outdoor cookout competition among some of the nation's top chefs. "La Caja China" is essentially a portable spit that can be used to roast anything from suckling pig to game. Contestants will try their hand at preparing succulent roasts of pork, game, lamb, etc. A tasting panel composed of leading culinary figures will do the judging as participants sample the various dishes. The cookout will be hosted by the Caja China's inventor, Roberto Guerra. This event promises to be both fun and tasty and is the perfect ending to a terrific weekend filled with culinary treats. The chefs scheduled to take part on Sunday are Jesse Jones, Adam Schop, Alex Garcia, Big Lou Elrose, Wade Burch, Charles Burke, and Bryan Gregg.

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