



FOR: **BON APPÉTIT PRESENTS CHICAGO GOURMET**

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Hamburger Hop Announces 2018 Chef Lineup

Spirited #FlashbackFriday Musical Theme Adds to the Fun

CHICAGO (August 9, 2018) - Flip the track and bring the old school back. Tickets will be gone in a #FlashbackFriday for *Bon Appétit presents Chicago Gourmet*'s fan-favorite **Hamburger Hop**, returning **Friday, September 28** on the **Harris Theater Rooftop** from **6 to 9 p.m.** Presented by **Buckhead Meat Chicago** and **Blue Moon Brewing Co.**, this year's burger bonanza comes with a toe-tapping, throwback twist! To celebrate Chicago Gourmet's overall Rock the Fork theme, the evening's DJ will spin crowd-pleasing, old school jams while 15 chefs duke it out for the title of burger champ.

Bon Appétit's Editor-In-Chief [Adam Rapoport](#) and Deputy Editor [Julia Kramer](#) will host the evening with flair while a panel of [eight judges](#) will blind taste and evaluate the creations of 15 talented chefs to crown the Judges' Champion. Meanwhile, guests can take part in the action too by casting votes for their favorites throughout the evening to identify the Peoples' Choice winner.

The competitor lineup includes:

Louie Alexakis | [Avli Estiatorio](#)
Matt Ayala | [Cochon Volant Brasserie](#)
Kevin Cuddihee | [TWO](#)
Alisha Elenz | [mfk.](#)
Susan Frasca | [Kinzie Chophouse](#)
Corey Grupe | [Timothy O'Toole's](#)
Amber Lancaster | [Sable Kitchen & Bar](#)



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Miguel Ortiz | [Gemini](#)
Tony Priolo | [Piccolo Sogno/Nonnina/Maillard Tavern](#)
Moosah Reaume | [Virgin Hotels Chicago](#)
Joe Rossi | [Miller's Pub](#)
Nathan Sears | [State and Lake Chicago Tavern](#)
José Sosa | [Gibsons Italia](#)
Alex Theodoroff | [MAD Social](#)
Mike Warner | [The Franklin Room](#)

Esteemed judges include:

George Alpogianis | [TAG Restaurants](#)
Lin Brehmer | [93XRT](#)
Carla Hall | [Chef and Author](#)
John Hogan | [River Roast](#)
Bruce Kalman | [BK Hospitality Group/Top Chef Season 15](#)
Tony Mantuano | [Spiaggia/Terzo Piano/River Roast](#)
Jason Pratt | [Blue Moon Brewing Co.](#)
Joe Sasto | [Chef, Los Angeles/Top Chef Season 15](#)

Hamburger Hop is presented by [Buckhead Meat Chicago](#) and [Blue Moon Brewing Co.](#) Additional sponsors include [Turano Baking Co.](#), [Josh Cellars](#), [American Express](#), [Cazadores](#), [Dewar's](#), [Choose Chicago](#), [American Airlines](#), [Bon Appétit](#), [Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits](#) and the [Illinois Restaurant Association](#). The event benefits the [Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation](#).

Plus, the official after party, **Late Night Gourmet**, presented by [Chicago magazine](#), will be held at celebrity lair **The Underground** from **9 p.m. to midnight**. Guests will mingle with Chicago's hottest tastemakers, influencers and chefs. The annual party promises delectable bites, cocktails and Champagne sponsored by [Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits](#), brews and live DJ entertainment.

Tickets are on sale now and going fast. Hamburger Hop tickets are \$125 and Late Night Gourmet tickets are \$50 per person. Tickets to both events can be purchased together for \$160. Prices are exclusive of taxes and fees. Both events are open to the public and are ticketed separately from Chicago Gourmet and the Grand Cru. Attendees must be at least 21 years of age.

For more details and to buy tickets, visit chicagogourmet.org.

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ABOUT BUCKHEAD MEAT CHICAGO

Buckhead Meat Chicago® was established in 1983 with a handful of devoted employees and a very simple operating philosophy: to provide the finest quality products at the best prices. Buckhead Meat Chicago® is totally committed to customer satisfaction and service. In 1996, The Buckhead Meat Chicago® Company gained international recognition while serving as the official supplier of meat and seafood products of the Atlanta Centennial Olympic Games. On August 20, 1999 Buckhead Meat Chicago® joined the Sysco family as a specialty meat company. The Buckhead Meat Chicago® brand has become synonymous with quality nationwide. Breed and geographic oriented sourcing, packer level alliances and premium programs continually raise industry standards while strengthening Buckhead Meat Chicago®'s position as the industry's leading protein supplier. www.buckheadbeef.com

ABOUT BLUE MOON BREWING CO.

Imagined in Belgium and crafted in Denver in 1995, Blue Moon Belgian White is the culmination of our head brewmaster and founder Keith Villa's creativity, passion, and curiosity. One of the first Belgian-Style Wheat Ales in the United States, Blue Moon Belgian White is an unfiltered wheat ale brewed with Valencia orange peel versus the traditional, more bitter Curaçao orange, for a subtle sweetness and smooth finish. We then added in the iconic orange garnish, another first, opening people's minds to the world of Craft beer. www.bluemoonbrewingco.com

ABOUT BON APPÉTIT

Bon Appétit is where food and culture meet. The award-winning No. 1 food lifestyle brand covers food through the lens of cooking, fashion, travel, technology, design, and home. *Bon Appétit* has been named to *Advertising Age's* A-List for six consecutive years, including Magazine of the Year 2013 and 2017, and Brand of the Year 2015, and has been named to *Adweek's* Hot List every year since 2012, including Hottest Food Magazine in 2013 and 2017. *Bon Appétit* has also been nominated for 28 National Magazine Awards in the past six years, including wins in 2014 for General Excellence and Photography, and in 2017 for General Excellence. For more, visit www.bonappetit.com and follow the brand on [Instagram](#).

ABOUT BON APPÉTIT PRESENTS CHICAGO GOURMET

Chicago Gourmet, the nation's premier culinary experience, returns September 26-30, 2018. Celebrating its eleventh year, Chicago Gourmet returns with a new theme – Rock the Fork – which celebrates two of Chicago's most beloved cultural attributes, food and music. The festival was created by the [Illinois Restaurant Association](#) to honor Chicago's culinary achievements and the creative vision of the chefs, Master Sommeliers, and wine-, spirit-, and beer-makers who participate. It also spotlights Chicago as an international culinary destination via its unparalleled epicurean talent. The event supports a range of charitable organizations every year, including the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation, Pilot Light and others. Chicago Gourmet is possible with the support of title sponsor *Bon Appétit* magazine

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and presenting sponsor Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits. For more information, please visit chicagogourmet.org and follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT SOUTHERN GLAZER'S WINE & SPIRITS

Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits is North America's largest wine and spirits distributor, and the preeminent data insights company for alcoholic beverages. The company has operations in 44 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, Canada, and the Caribbean, and employs more than 20,000 team members. Southern Glazer's urges all retail customers and adult consumers to market, sell, serve, and enjoy its products responsibly. For more information visit www.southernglazers.com. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @sgwinespirits and on Facebook at [Facebook.com/SouthernGlazers](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernGlazers).

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. The IRA owns and produces [Chicago Gourmet](#) – the annual food and wine festival uniting hundreds of restaurants, chefs and beverage experts for a weekend filled with food and drink tastings, entertainment, cooking demonstrations, book signings, interactive seminars and more. The Association is also a proud co-host of the [James Beard Foundation Awards](#), which will be held in Chicago through 2021. For more information about the Illinois Restaurant Association, visit illinoisrestaurants.org and follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).



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