

bon appétit presents  
**CHICAGO  
GOURMET**

**FOR:** **BON APPÉTIT PRESENTS CHICAGO GOURMET**  
[chicagogourmet.org](http://chicagogourmet.org)  
Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo

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**CHICAGO GOURMET ROCKS THE FORK THIS SEPTEMBER**  
*Pre-Sale Tickets on sale Thursday, April 12 at 10 A.M. CST*

Get ready to rock this September at [Bon Appétit presents Chicago Gourmet!](#) On the heels of a memorable 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the nation's premier culinary festival promises a groovin' 11<sup>th</sup> year with its 2018 theme – **Rock The Fork** – celebrating all things food and music.

Chicago Gourmet was founded by the [Illinois Restaurant Association](#) and is produced in partnership with title sponsor [Bon Appétit magazine](#) and presenting sponsor [Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits](#). In addition to weaving entertaining musical elements into the popular Grand Tasting in Millennium Park September 29-30, organizers are coordinating a series of events throughout the week which will be revealed in June.

"This year's festival explores the connectivity between food and music, two of Chicago's most beloved cultural institutions," said Sam Toia, President and CEO of the Illinois Restaurant Association. "The culinary community is incredibly passionate about music, and we've learned how much of a role it plays in the industry. We have even unearthed some rising, culinary rock stars! We look forward to presenting a crowd-pleasing lineup that punctuates Chicago's international reputation as a dynamic, world-class destination."

**Drop the Beat.**

It's time to hit play, because **the highly anticipated pre-sale opens Thursday, April 12 at 10 a.m. CST** at [chicagogourmet.org](http://chicagogourmet.org). While supplies last, tickets for the Grand Tasting will be available at \$156 per person, per day, or \$288 per person for a Weekend Pass. This pricing represents a substantial savings over regularly priced tickets, which are \$195 per person, per day, or \$310 per person for a Weekend Pass. **(NOTE: Regularly priced tickets will immediately become available as pre-sale tickets sell out.)**

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Grand Cru and travel packages with accommodations by [Hyatt Regency Chicago](#), [Langham Chicago](#) and [Fairmont Chicago](#) are also available beginning April 12.

Along with the Grand Tasting and popular mainstay events like Hamburger Hop, Late Night Gourmet and Rise & Shine Gourmet, Chicago Gourmet 2018 will feature additional ancillary events kicking off Wednesday, September 26. Harmoniously matched with leading culinary talent, the series will showcase the sounds of jazz, blues, rock, global and more in both iconic music venues and unique locales. From toe-tapping cocktail parties to platinum dinners, this year's festival will hit all the high notes. Tickets for all ancillary events will go on sale in June.

For more details, visit [chicagogourmet.org](#). Questions regarding ticket sales may be directed to [info@chicagogourmet.org](mailto:info@chicagogourmet.org) or (312) 380-4129.

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

### **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, design, and home. Under editor in chief Adam Rapoport, the brand has been nominated for 24 National Magazine Awards, including wins in 2017 and 2014 for General Excellence; 14 James Beard Foundation Journalism Awards; and more than 50 Society of Publication Designers (SPD) nominations including design, photography, and Magazine of the Year. The magazine was named an Ad Age Magazine of the Year in 2016, and has been named to AdWeek's Hot List in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016. For more information, visit [www.bonappetit.com](#).

### **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](#).

## 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 [www.illinoisrestaurants.org](http://www.illinoisrestaurants.org) and follow on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).