

FOR: **BON APPÉTIT PRESENTS CHICAGO GOURMET**

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HIT THE HIGH NOTES AT CHICAGO GOURMET'S GRAND CRU PRESENTED BY UNITEDHEALTHCARE



CHICAGO (August 15, 2019) – **Bon Appétit presents Chicago Gourmet** has announced the chefs behind the Broadway-inspired **Grand Cru!** Presented by **UnitedHealthcare**, this two-day event rolls out the red carpet offering exclusive tastings of some of the finest wines in the world. Guests will experience expertly-curated selections unearthed by **Master Sommelier Serafin Alvarado** and presenting sponsor **Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits**. And there's more! In conjunction with this year's Lights, Camera, Napkin! theme, lauded **Host Chef Tony Mantuano (Spiaggia, Terzo Piano, River Roast, Maddon's Post)** has invited fellow superstar chefs to prepare tastings based on — fittingly — Tony Award Winning Musicals. Guests will enjoy dishes inspired by Broadway classics including **Thai Dang's** "The King & I" creation, **Meg Galus'** take on "Avenue Q," **Ellen King's** "Hairspray" concept, **Andrew Zimmerman's** interpretation of "South Pacific," and more can't-miss creations.

"The Grand Cru always features the best of the best. From leading chefs, master sommeliers, incredible flavors and the world's rarest wines, it is a truly sophisticated experience," said Chef Tony Mantuano. "Dining in and of itself can be considered a form of theater, so this year's theme is a natural fit. I can't wait to see how my colleagues transform their favorite musicals into equally entertaining (and decadent) dishes."

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At the premier “event within the event,” guests of the Grand Cru experience samplings of dramatic cuisine and show-stopping pours of elite wines from around the world. Master Sommelier **Serafin Alvarado** will be joined by a legion of wine stars from throughout the U.S., some of whom include Master Sommelier **Fred Dame** of [DAUO Vineyards and Winery](#); Master of Wine **Mark de Vere** of [Robert Mondavi](#) and the Constellation Academy; Master Sommelier and Director of Education at Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits **Kathy Morgan**; Master Sommelier **Alpana Singh** of [Check, Please!](#) and proprietor of [Terra & Vine](#); Master Sommelier **Joseph Spellman** of [Justin Winery](#); Master Sommelier and Texas Director of Wine Education for Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits **Guy Stout**; and Master Sommelier **Madeline Triffon**.

The ensemble of featured chefs includes:

Thai Dang | [HaiSous](#) / [Cá Phe Đá](#)
Brian Fisher | [Entente](#)
Meg Galus | [Boka](#)
Danny Grant | [etta](#) / [Maple & Ash](#)
Perry Hendrix | [avec](#)
Troy Jorge | [Temporis](#)
Ellen King | [HEWN](#)
John Manion | [La Sirena Clandestina](#) / [El Che Steakhouse & Bar](#)
Sarah Mispagel | [Sepia](#)
John & Karen Shields | [Smyth/The Loyalist](#)
Katsuji Tanabe | [Barrio](#)
Jeff Vucko | [Travelle at the Langham](#)
Andrew Zimmerman | [Sepia](#) / [Proxi](#)

The Grand Cru takes place **Saturday, September 28** and **Sunday, September 29** from **2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** on the **Harris Theater Rooftop**. The Grand Cru is a separately ticketed event at \$205 per person (excluding tax) and also requires a general admission ticket to Chicago Gourmet. Attendance is limited to 400 guests each day. **Saturday passes are sold out** and **Sunday tickets are available now** at [chicagogourmet.org](#). Attendees must be at least 21 years of age.

The Grand Cru is made possible by [UnitedHealthcare](#), [Bon Appétit](#), [Southern Glazers Wine & Spirits](#), [Choose Chicago](#), [Cadillac](#), [Volpi](#), [Evian](#), [Vanity Fair Napkins](#), [Badoit](#), [VerTerra](#) and the [Illinois Restaurant Association](#).

Visit [chicagogourmet.org](#) for tickets and additional information. Specific questions regarding ticket sales may be directed to [chicagogourmet@illinoisrestaurants.org](#) or (312) 787-4000 ext. 137.

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ABOUT UNITEDHEALTHCARE

UnitedHealthcare is dedicated to helping people live healthier lives and making the health system work better for everyone by simplifying the health care experience, meeting consumer health and wellness needs, and sustaining trusted

relationships with care providers. In the United States, UnitedHealthcare offers the full spectrum of health benefit programs for individuals, employers, and Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and contracts directly with more than 1.2 million physicians and care professionals, and 6,500 hospitals and other care facilities nationwide. The company also provides health benefits and delivers care to people through owned and operated health care facilities in South America. UnitedHealthcare is one of the businesses of UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH), a diversified health care company. For more information, visit UnitedHealthcare at www.uhc.com or follow [@UHC](https://twitter.com/UHC) on Twitter.

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. As the leading arbiter of taste, its home-grown talent and tireless dedication to recipe testing separates it from the competition by miles. **Bon Appétit** has been named to Advertising Age's A-List for eight consecutive years, including Magazine of the Year 2013 and 2017, Brand of the Year 2015, and Digital and Video recognition in 2019, and has been named to Adweek's Hot List every year since 2012, including Hottest Food Magazine in 2013, 2017 and 2018. **Bon Appétit** has also been nominated for 32 National Magazine Awards in the past six years, including wins in 2014 for General Excellence and Photography, in 2017 for General Excellence, and in 2019 for Social Media. For more, visit www.bonappetit.com.

ABOUT SOUTHERN GLAZER'S WINE & SPIRITS

Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits is the world's pre-eminent distributor of beverage alcohol, and proud to be a multi-generational, family-owned company. 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 [@sgwinespirits](https://twitter.com) and on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/SouthernGlazers) at [Facebook.com/SouthernGlazers](https://facebook.com/SouthernGlazers).

ABOUT BON APPÉTIT PRESENTS CHICAGO GOURMET

Chicago Gourmet, the nation's premier culinary experience, returns Sept. 24-29, 2019. Celebrating its 12th year, Chicago Gourmet returns with a spirited theme – Lights, Camera, Napkin! – celebrating all things food and entertainment. Chicago Gourmet was created by the [Illinois Restaurant Association](http://illinoisrestaurantassociation.org) 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, 100 Club of Chicago, and others. Chicago Gourmet is possible with the support of title sponsor **Bon Appétit** and presenting sponsor Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits. For more information, please visit chicagogourmet.org and follow on [Facebook](https://facebook.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), and [Instagram](https://instagram.com).

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](http://jamesbeardfoundation.org), which will be held in Chicago through 2027. For more information about the Illinois Restaurant Association, visit illinoisrestaurants.org and follow on [Facebook](https://facebook.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and [Instagram](https://instagram.com).