AND THE WINNER IS…

CHEF KEVIN CUDDIHEE NAMED 2019 HAMBURGER HOP CHAMPION

CHICAGO (September 28, 2019) – The 2019 Hamburger Hop, presented by Buckhead Meat of Chicago and Blue Moon Brewing Co., kicked off the twelfth annual Bon Appétit presents Chicago Gourmet with a star-studded night filled with delectable burgers, cold brews, Russell’s Reserve Bourbon and Espolòn Tequila cocktails, Josh Wines, fine spirits, music and more. This year, organizers partnered with the Chicago International Film Festival to play movie trailers showcasing our favorite burgers on the big screen throughout the evening, while chefs went toque-to-toque for champion status.

After careful deliberation by an impressive panel of celebrity judges, Chef Kevin Cuddihee of Porter Kitchen & Deck was named the judges’ Buckhead Meat Chicago Hamburger Hop Award winner. His irresistible burger creation, Hawaiian Truffle Burger, featured CAB prime burger, Alpha Morning Sun truffle cheese, porcini aioli
and Bordelaise onions on a Turano Hawaiian bun. Burgers were judged on a range of characteristics, including flavor, creativity and presentation.

And in an exciting twist, Cuddihee also earned the People’s Choice Award making him the second chef in Chicago Gourmet history to take home both titles! More than 1,000 guests used Blue Moon Brewing Company bottle caps to cast their votes at each station.

Cuddihee was awarded two YETI coolers filled to the brim with Buckhead meat and seafood and two magnums of fine wine from Josh Cellars. And, of course, bragging rights for a lifetime!

In addition to winning Chef Cuddihee, contenders included:

- Mike Matos and Zack Downing | Half Sour
- Ryan Burns | Monnie Burke’s
- Kevin Cuddihee | PORTER Kitchen & Deck
- Amanda Downing Salas | The Smoke Daddy Wrigleyville
- Gabriel Freeman | Scofflaw
- Greg and Kristina Gaardbo | Chicago Culinary Kitchen
- John Gatsos | Tavern on Rush
- James Klewin | Burger Federation
- John McLean & Martin Murch | Burger Bar Chicago
- Michael McKinnell | Mordecai
- Lamar Moore | The Swill Inn / Chit Chat Lounge
- Michael Clark | Mastro's Steakhouse Chicago
- Zach Walrat | The Florentine
- Katie Wasielewski | Pub Royale


Photo credit: Neil John Burger Photography.

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ABOUT BUCKHEAD MEAT OF CHICAGO
Buckhead Meat of 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 of Chicago® is totally committed to customer satisfaction and service. In 1996, The Buckhead Meat of 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 of Chicago® joined the Sysco family as a specialty meat company. The Buckhead Meat of 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 of Chicago™'s position as the industry's leading protein supplier. [www.buckheadbeef.com](http://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](http://www.bluemoonbrewingco.com)

**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://www.chicagoro.com) 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](http://www.chicagoro.com) and presenting sponsor Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits. For more information, please visit chicagogourmet.org and follow on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**ABOUT BON APPÉTIT**

[Bon Appétit](http://www.chicagoro.com) 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](http://www.chicagoro.com) 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](http://www.chicagoro.com) 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](http://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 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 2027. For more information about the Illinois Restaurant Association, visit illinoisrestaurants.org and follow on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.