

CHICAGO GOURMET

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FOR: CHICAGO GOURMET
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FROM: **Isabelli Partners**
Janet Isabelli | janet@isabellipartners.com | (773) 392-6227

CHICAGO GOURMET INNOVATES IN 2020 *The celebration of Chicago's world-class culinary community goes on*

CHICAGO, IL (June 30, 2020) – **Chicago Gourmet**, one of the nation's most distinguished food festivals – has announced a new format that will come to life this September. Organizers at the **Illinois Restaurant Association**, the event's founding sponsor – along with presenting sponsor **Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits** – will soon reveal new programming that celebrates Chicago's diverse culinary landscape while safely bringing food and drink enthusiasts the memorable experiences they crave. With the guidance of health experts and public officials, the outdoor epicurean gathering traditionally held in Chicago's Millennium Park will be suspended until September 2021.

"This year marks our thirteenth annual celebration of Chicago's world-class culinary scene," said **Sam Toia**, President and CEO, Illinois Restaurant Association. "Chicago Gourmet fans can look forward to several experiential events championing a range of cuisines, chefs, beverage experts and more. These intimate events will give enthusiasts a front row seat to the talented individuals who make up our vibrant dining communities."

During September, Chicago Gourmet will feature several unique dinners, tastings and collaborative events. Taking place in person at restaurants and small venues citywide, functions will be limited in size to comply with current phasing and public safety requirements and designed for a range of interests and appetites. The lineup also includes **Go Gourmet** – a compelling series of virtual discussions and demos – that allow fans to participate from the comfort of their living room or home kitchen.

Chicago Gourmet's commitment to community remains steadfast. Events and charitable programs will be announced later this summer at chicagogourmet.org.

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ABOUT CHICAGO GOURMET

Chicago Gourmet, the nation's premier culinary experience, returns September 2020. 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 spotlights Chicago as an international culinary destination via its unparalleled epicurean talent. The event supports a range of charitable organizations every year. Chicago Gourmet is possible with the support of 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 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](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 www.illinoisrestaurants.org and follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT THE ILLINOIS RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

[The Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation](#) is a 501 (c)(3) dedicated to building the Illinois hospitality workforce through career exploration, workforce development programs and scholarships. ProStart® is a national school-to-careers program that prepares high school students for careers in foodservice and hospitality management. ProStart® in Illinois is administered by the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation to over 3,000 students at 40 schools in Illinois. Students have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials and articulated credits for college while in high school. The Foundation provides work readiness training and connects students with industry professionals through job shadowing and internships to help hone their skills in the foodservice industry. The ProStart® program is also offered in all 50 states encompassing almost 120,000 high school students in more than 1,800 high schools. For more information, visit chooseresaurants.org or on [Facebook](#).