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Austin Food + Wine Festival Announces
Artisans at The Grand Taste Presented by Bank of America
Seventh Annual Festival, April 27-29, to Feature a Dynamic Lineup of
Food, Wine, Spirits and Lifestyle Purveyors

Austin, TX, March 29, 2018 – Austin Food + Wine Festival is pleased to announce the lineup of food, lifestyle, wine & spirit partners at the **Grand Taste** Presented by Bank of America and the dynamic selection of interactive experiences at the festival, April 27-29, 2018: <http://www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com>.

Located on festival grounds at Auditorium Shores, Austin Food + Wine Festival's Grand Taste offers a prime location for attendees to sip, savor, mix and mingle their way through a vast number of the country's top wine, spirits and culinary exhibitors. The Grand Taste spans over four acres showcasing over 150 of the finest beverage, food and lifestyle artisans from Austin and across the country.

"Bank of America couldn't be more pleased to partner with the Austin Food + Wine Festival and host the Grand Taste to shine a spotlight on the good food, good wine and goodwill the city has to offer," says **Nikki Graham**, Bank of America, Austin Market President. "Fostering awareness and innovation in the Central Texas community is at the heart of everything we do, and we look forward to furthering this commitment and celebrating our community alongside top chefs, restaurants and businesses from Austin and beyond."

The Grand Taste will be open on Saturday, April 28, from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and on Sunday, April 29, from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., and entrance is included in both All-In and Weekender Tickets.

"We are thrilled and honored to be included in this year's Austin Food + Wine Festival," says **Atticus Garant**, chef of Fairmont Austin. "To be able to cook alongside such an impressive lineup of chefs is truly humbling, and we can't wait to share the flavors and creations of Revue and Garrison with Austin's dining scene."

The food and lifestyle purveyors scheduled to attend the Grand Taste include: *1934 BBQ; Barbecue Wife; Barritts Ginger Beer; Be Mixed Cocktail Mixer; Cayman Islands; Chameleon Cold Brew; City Hall Bistro; Cuvee Coffee; DelGrosso Foods; Fairmont Hotel's Garrison Grill; Hammer Stahl; High Brew Coffee; Hudson Meats; Jcoco Chocolate; Kerrygold; Mahatma Rice; Noon Mediterranean; Olive + M; Renaissance Hotel; Shade Tree Lemonade; Skull and Cakebones; Stella San Jac; Caroline's; Swamp Dragon Hot Sauce; Tree Hive; and True Food Kitchen.*



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"Our friends at C3 Presents do an unbelievable job creating a beautiful weekend for festivalgoers," says **Sean Foley** of Nine Banded Whiskey. "A Sunday afternoon at AFW is about as good as it gets between the wonderful wine, spirits, and food from near and far. We're honored to be included in the Grand Taste again this year."

Festivalgoers will also have the opportunity to sample over 50 wines, spirits and beers from across the globe in the Grand Taste, including: *1000 Stories; 7 Moons; 9 Banded Whiskey; August Wine Group; Austin Eastciders; Balcones Distilling; Banfi Vintners; Blue Chair Bay Rum; Bodega Barcelona; Bonterra Organic Vineyards; Casa Noble Tequila; Cat Tequila; Caymus; Celis Brewery; Chateau de Berne; Circle Brewing Co.; Criterion Cellars; Delicato Family Vineyards; Dulce Vida Tequila; Excelsior Wine Co.; Fetzer; Flor De Cana; Foley Family Wines; Francis Ford Coppola Winery; Franciscan; Gem & Bolt; Hi Sign Brewing; High West Whiskey; Hope Family Wines; Independence Brewing; Jardesca; Jose Cuervo; Three Olives Rose; K Vintners Wines of Substance; KoBrand Sequoia Grove; Korbel California Champagne; Mule 2.0; Nielson Winery; Palm Bay Imports; Prisoner Wine; Ravage Wines; Rekorderlig Cider; Riboli Family Wine Estates; Rodney Strong Vineyards; Ruffino Wines; Santa Margherita USA; Seersucker Gin; Singleton Whisky; Smirnoff Seltzer; Sonoma-Cutrer; Ste. Michelle Wine Estates; Sugarlands Distilling; The Wine Group; The Winebow Group; WillaKenzie Estate; and Woody Creek Distillers.*

"Austin Food + Wine has done an incredible job showing the diverse food and beverage culture of Austin," says **TJ Mathias** of Tito's Handmade Vodka. "Plus, I always look forward to DJ Mel's dance parties."

Throughout the weekend, the festival will offer attendees a variety of interactive culinary, beverage and lifestyle experiences around the park. Celebrate great food, wine and goodwill in the Grand Taste with **Bank of America**, as festival attendees have the opportunity to choose a local charity and give back to the greater Austin community while enjoying the flavors of the festival and learning expert tips to help enhance their festival experience.

Benvenuti! **Barilla**, the Masters of Pasta™, welcomes attendees to share the table, enjoy authentic Italian pasta recipes, talk with the chef and stop in for a fun photo opportunity to remember their time at Austin Wine + Food Festival. Stop by the **Crimson and Malene Wines** Airstream to taste the newest release on tap, the 2017 Malene Rosé, as well as Chamisal Vineyard's Stainless Chardonnay, in the style and comfort of a vintage 1969 Airstream.

Join **H-E-B In the Kitchen with the 4J's** – chefs **Jonathan Waxman, Jimmy Bradley, Joey Campanaro & Jason Giagrande** for modern takes on classic dishes, delicious wines and 4J coffee. Visit **Hendrick's** to experience *The World's Most Utterly Inefficient Cocktail Bar*. Handcrafted from three stories high, enjoy the show as cocktails are shaken, strained and poured each step of the way from Hendrick's marvelous, but most utterly inefficient cocktail bar.

Can't make it to Loretto? No worries, **Maker's Mark** will bring a small taste of Loretto to Austin. Swing by for fresh handcrafted cocktails made with Maker's Mark or Maker's 46. Attendees are also encouraged to roll up their sleeves with expert craftsmen and experience the satisfaction of making something with their own two hands.

Festivalgoers can also step out of the kitchen into a world of culinary exploration with **Toyota!** Get travel-ready with a personalized luggage tag, create a custom cutting board, sample refreshing *aguas frescas*, and take home the perfect carry-on tote bag. Want to commemorate your experience? Stop by for a photo, compliments of Toyota. Let's go places!

Live "La Vita Ruffino" with **Ruffino Prosecco!** Enjoy a sparkling welcome to the festival and throughout the weekend with Ruffino Prosecco & Sparkling Rosé. Salute! Also meet winemaker *Fintan du Fresne* and learn about his passion for making excellent California Rosé or stop by **Tito's** to learn the history of this Austin original and enjoy a taste (or two) of these favorite cocktails.



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Looking to taste it all? Visit **Treasury Wine Estates** for some rosé, frosé, wine on tap, bubbles and more. Meet Treasury's very own *Trevor Durling*, winemaker of Beaulieu Vineyard and Hewitt Vineyards, on Saturday from 1:00p.m. – 3:00p.m. He will take you on a journey of Rutherford's pioneer wines. Don't miss this experience!

Austin Food + Wine Festival is excited to partner with **GrubTubs**, an Austin-based regenerative agriculture start-up that collects leftovers from restaurants and commercial kitchens. GrubTubs delivers these leftovers to local farms to be repurposed into animal feed. At the 2018 festival, GrubTubs will provide chefs tubs to collect and repurpose all of the food waste in order to support local agriculture and lower the festival's environmental footprint.

Austin Food + Wine is committed to the safety and security of all patrons in the park. ALL bags will be searched before entry. Bags will be restricted to small purses, totes and drawstring bags only. Please note that bag size may not exceed 14" x 11" x 5" (35cm x 28cm x 12cm) and must have no more than one singular pocket or opening. Backpacks and bags with multiple pockets are prohibited. Patrons should be prepared to have their bags searched each time they enter the festival and should plan for extra time to get through security. For faster entry, No Bag Express Lanes will be located at the entrance for those not carrying a bag.

Additional programming announcements will be made over the course of the spring; please visit www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com for more information and updates.

The *All-In* ticket is \$625/per person and includes Saturday and Sunday Festival access; over 40 culinary demos; beer, wine and cocktail tasting sessions; access to the expanded Fire Pits; all-day access to the Grand Taste, including the Chef Showcase; a special Sunday Gospel Brunch; Grillin' and Chillin'; and entrance to Saturday night's *Rock Your Taco*.

The *Weekender* ticket is \$250/per person and includes Saturday and Sunday Festival access; over 40 culinary demos; beer, wine and cocktail tasting sessions; access to the expanded Fire Pits; all-day access to the Grand Taste, including the Chef Showcase; and a special Sunday Gospel Brunch.

All-In and *Weekender* tickets can be purchased at www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com/tickets. All attendees must be 21 years of age or older. For more information, please visit www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com, or follow us on Instagram [@austinfoodwine](https://www.instagram.com/austinfoodwine), Twitter [@austinfoodwine](https://twitter.com/austinfoodwine) and [Facebook.com/austinfoodwine](https://www.facebook.com/austinfoodwine).

The Austin Food + Wine Festival is generously sponsored by Bank of America, Republic National Distributing, Toyota, HEB and FOOD & WINE.

About Austin Food + Wine Festival:

The Austin Food + Wine Festival marks a compelling collaboration between C3 Presents and some of Texas' most exciting chefs and restaurateurs, including Tim Love, *Iron Chef Champion* and co-host of *CNBC's Restaurant Startup*, as well as owner/chef of TLC Catering, The Lonesome Dove Western Bistro, Love Shack, White Elephant Saloon, Queenie's Steakhouse, and The Woodshed Smokehouse across Texas and Tennessee, and Restaurateur Jesse Herman. C3 Presents is the Austin-based event company that produces Lollapalooza in Chicago's Grant Park, and Austin City Limits Music Festival in Austin's Zilker Park. The Austin Food + Wine Festival will take place April 27-29, 2018, bringing an array of taste, talent and culinary entertainment to the Capital City. Please visit www.austinfoodandwinefestival.com for future details on the event.

About FOOD & WINE

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