

FOOD FRINGE

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Chefs on the Grill 2015

Denise I. O'Neal

What started as an event featuring the talent of South Loop restaurants has evolved into one of the most highly anticipated events of the grilling season.



The Eighth Annual Chefs on the Grill competition kicks off at 5:30 p.m. June 25 on the plaza outside of Park Grill, 11 N. Michigan.

The event, one of the biggest grilling competitions judged by a public vote, benefits Art Smith's Common Threads (geared toward educating children in under privileged areas on how to cook wholesome healthy meals) and the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's ProStart program (helps channel students' interests and talents to better lives and careers).

Participants in this year's competition include: host restaurant Park Grill; Old Town Pour House; Howells and Hood; The Gage; Frontier; Chicago Yacht Club; Tesori; Acanto; Mercat a la Planxa; Rural Society, Farmhouse; Sunda and Labriola.

Tickets are \$85. [parkgrill](http://parkgrill.com)

Mercat's paella event

Panache Publishing/Verve News Wire



Host chef Jose Garces and Bon Appetit presents the Chicago Gourmet Mercat a la Planxa Second Annual Paella cook-off at 6 p.m. June 22.

Chefs vying for the coveted MVPaella title this year are: John Manion (El Che Bar, La Sirena Clandestina); Tim Graham (Travelle); Abe Colon (Fat Rice); Rob Hafer (Slurping Turtle); Perry Hendrix (Avec) and Ashlee Aubin (Salero).

Judges are Jose Garces, Chandra Ram, editor of Plate magazine, Catherine DeOrio, host of Check, Please!; Mario Rizotti, Iron Chef America and 2014 paella champion Jon Keeley, Gemini Bistro.

Tickets are \$75. A portion of the proceeds benefit ProStart.

[mercataalaplanxa](http://mercataalaplanxa.com)



Starving Artists benefit

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Area chefs partner with the Chicago Artists Coalition for the organization's Starving Artist 2015 event 7-11 p.m. June 25 at Venue One, 1034 W. Randolph.

The evening, built around food, art and spontaneous performances, is designed to help raise funds to benefit the advancement of a sustainable community for entrepreneurial artists and creatives.

Chefs participating in this year's event include Tony Quartaro, Formento's; Patrick Sheerin, Trencherman; Sean Pharr, The Bristol; and Shawn Doolin, Venue One.

Shake Shack provides burgers and Lavazza presents creative specialty drinks.

Food and art collaborations highlight the event with artists Marissa Lee Benedict, Amber Ginsburg, Andrew Rosinski, Maurene Cooper, Tori Terzakis and Stacia Yeapanis partnering with the chefs to create collaborative installations.

It wouldn't be a party without music and DJ Swaguerrilla spins tunes while Power of Cheer deliver a special performance.

Video art by Lilli Carre, Theodore Darst and Snow Yunxue Fu will be on display.

Paddle 8 hosts an online auction, which begins June 11.

chicagoartistscoalition

Foie Gras fest

Panache Publishing/Verve News Wire



Chicago Foie Gras Fest is June 9-13 at Cyrano's Farm Kitchen, 546 N. Wells.

All of Chef Didier Durand's dishes will be made from La Belle Foie Gras Farm products.

Items on the a la carte menu include: goose rillettes with foie gras traditional style with toast point and garnish (\$12); porcini and spices cured foie gras with cracked black pepper, truffles and noodles (\$18); grilled duck breast and foie gras, cherry balsamic glaze, asparagus ramps pain perdu and vegetables (\$25).

Desserts include foie gras crème brulee, nuts fricassee (\$10) and foie gras beignet, ginger rhubarb jam (\$10).

There will even be a foie gras martini (Grey Goose vodka, and green olives stuffed with foie gras); \$12. **cyrano**

Food bytes:



Carlucci Restaurant, 1801 Butterfield, Downers Grove, hosts its annual patio party 6:30 p.m. June 4: \$30, includes buffet and three drink tickets. **carlucci**

Get twisted

Twisted Spoke, 501 N. Ogden serves up 20 rare beers in honor of its 20th anniversary 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. June 4. A VIP pre-party is 5-6 p.m. **twisted**

Nepal clean water benefit

Kit Kat Lounge and Supper Club, 3700 N. Halsted, hosts a Nepal earthquake victims benefit 6-8 p.m. June 16 featuring an Effen vodka bar and passed hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds benefit Water with Blessings. **kitkat**

Nacional ceviche day fest

Nacional 27, 325 W. Huron, kicks off a three-day ceviche celebration June 25-27 in honor of National Ceviche Day (June 28). **nacional27**

Beer dinner

Kama Bistro, 9 S. La Grange Rd., La Grange, hosts "AmericaKama," a Revolution beer pairing dinner, 7 p.m. June 18: \$55. **kama**

Botanical beer dinner

Arami, 1821 W. Chicago, hosts a Forbidden Root botanic beer dinner 7 p.m. June 11; \$70. **aramichicago**

Mixing it up with....

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"Entourage" the film hits theaters June 3 and along with the HBO series' big screen debut comes the Entourage-inspired cocktail the A-Lister made with premium rum (Bacardi Gran reserve Maestro de Ron)

The recipe: 1 1/2 parts Bacardi Gran Rerserva; 3/4 part lime juice; 3/4 part honey; 1/4 absinthe

Open doors:

Chicago Athletic Association Hotel, 12 S. Michigan. The venue's dining options include: Cindy's (rooftop) and Shake Shack. **chicagoathletic**



The **Windsor**, 160 E. Huron.

Corporate Chef Todd Stein heads up the kitchen of Four Star Restaurant's newest venture, housed in the former Elephant & Castle spot. Opening in July. **fourstar**

Wixter Market, 2110 W. Divison. Flash frozen seafood and gourmet products shop opens June 6 in Wicker Park (pictured/Galdones Photography).

Big Fish party

Friends of the Chicago River hosts its 10th Annual Big Fish Ball benefit 5:30-10 p.m. June 4 outdoors along the Merchandise Mart's Riverside Drive, housed between the Wells and Franklin street bridges.

The event includes dining under a tented pavilion, visits by live river animals, silent mobile auction and an after-party boat cruise.

To purchase tickets or make a donation, visit **chicagoriver**

Captions: Members of the Actors Gymnasium pose as living statues at the 2013 event.



Pilsen social

The Pilsen community hosts a food truck social featuring food, live music and family fun June 6-7 on 18th Street between Throop and Racine; \$20 sampler tickets available.

More than 25 food trucks will lineup for the occasion offering everything from lobster to cupcakes. Trucks include: 5411 Empanadas; Chicago Cupcake; Da Lobsta; Good Burger; Haute & Ready; Husky Hog BBQ; Tamale Spaceship; Windy City Patty Burger; Starfruit Café; Corner Pharmacy and Pierogi Street. Restaurant vendors include Azul18; Dia De Los Tamales and Honky Tonk BBQ.

Live music performances and family activities round out the festive event. **pilsenfoodtrucksocial**



Clark street hop

The Cravings on Clark Restaurant Crawl, showcasing Lincoln Park dining spots along Clark Street and Diversey Pkwy, is 6-9 p.m. June 9.

Participating locations include: Vanille Patisserie; Yoberri Gourmet; Nine Classic Thai Cuisine; Orange Restaurant; Gaslight Bar; Benjyehuda; Dunlays on Clark; 40s TF Healthy Mediterranean Cuisine; Edge Bar & Grill; My Fit Foods; KC Chocolatier; TeaGschwendner ; Snow Dragon Shavery; Potbelly's Sandwich Works; The Pasta Bowl; WingStop; Eleven Lincoln Park; Galway Arms; Papa John's; Standard Market Grill; LP Stadium and Compass Bar.

Tickets are \$40; \$30 in advance.

Check in point is 2558 N. Clark. **clarkstreetcrawl**