

DINING NEWS

Chefs will heat up fundraiser

NORTHEAST VALLEY

The lineup of talent is stellar, the food is sure to be sumptuous, and the cause is great. What else could you need?



CAREY SWEET

Dine Out With the Chefs, scheduled for Oct. 5, brings together 17 top toques to benefit the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts' youth-education and -outreach programs.

Yes, there are a lot of culinary fundraisers these days, but this is a particularly notable one. In just its third year, the event is attracting significant names, like chefs Nobuo Fukuda (Sea Saw and the soon-to-be Shell Shock), Payton Curry (Digestif), Bernie Kantak (Cowboy Ciao and the coming-soon Mexican Standoff), Ron Dimas (Estate House), and Lee Hillson (T. Cook's at the Royal Palms Resort & Spa).

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Keep reading. Your ticket also buys you an audience with (and food from) chef Michael Rusconi (Lon's at the Hermosa Inn), chef-owner Erasmo "Razz" Kamnitzer (Razz's), chef Mel Mecinas (Talavera at the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale), chef Robert Sanchez (Windows on the Green at the Phoenician), chef Matt Carter (Zinc Bistro and the upcoming Mission) and chef Justin Beckett (Canal).

But wait, there's more. Other celebs in white jackets include chef Eric Howson (Alto ristorante e bar at the Hyatt Regency Gainey Ranch), chef/owner Carolyn Ellis (Arcadia Farms), pastry

chef Tracy Dempsey (Cowboy Ciao, Digestif, the upcoming Confection), chef Matthew Contreras (Foodbar, which should reopen by late September), chef Jon-Paul Hutchins (Scottsdale Culinary Institute's L'Ecole and L'Academie) and head baker Jeffrey Yankellow (Simply Bread).

Want tickets? Silly question. You know you do. Buy them now, and save \$10 (\$75 in advance, or \$85 at the door).

Details: Dine Out With the Chefs: A Celebration of the Culinary Arts, 4 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 5, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E. Second St., 480-994-2787, scottsdaleperformingarts.org.

Screaming deal

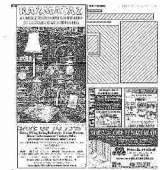
If you're interested in getting your hands on coveted Screaming Eagle, Araujo or Continuum wines, check out the Off the Vine auction being conducted Oct. 16 at the Royal Palms, to benefit Hospice of the Valley.

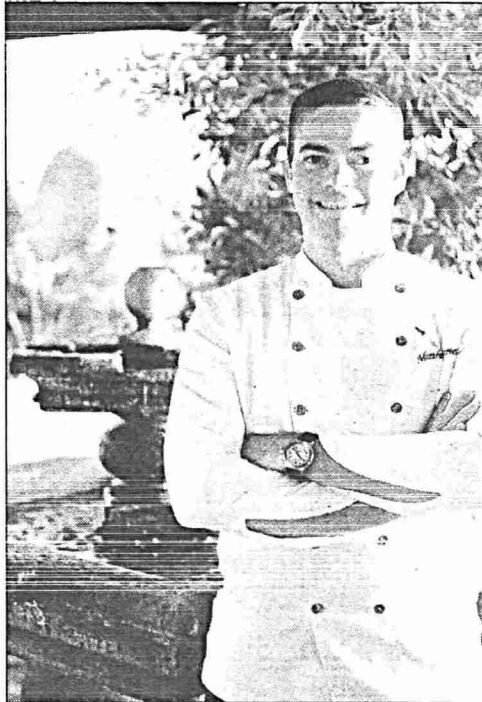
Coordinators have acquired some pretty rare labels, secured, in part, by Backstreet Wine Salon in Phoenix.

If you can't make the auction, make a reservation at Backstreet. Owner Jock Wulffson is the resident wine expert, and besides his retail wine shop, he operates a terrific European-style wine bar and bistro.

Details: Off the Vine, 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 16, Royal Palms Resort & Spa, 5200 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. Tickets are \$150, call 602-636-5314, hov.org. Backstreet Wine Salon, 3603 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix, 602-550-7900, www.backstreetwine.com.

Carey Sweet writes about restaurant news in the Northeast Valley. Reach her at carey@careysweet.com.





COURTESY SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Chef Matt Carter will lend his talents to Dine Out With the Chefs on Oct. 5.