

FOOD+WINE
FESTIVAL PALM DESERT™
March 22-24, 2013 · palmdesertfoodandwine.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Springer-Holmes
julie@idcreative.com
(512) 422-1902

**FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL PALM DESERT™
(MARCH 22 – 24, 2013) ANNOUNCES FEATURED CHEFS, WINE EXPERTS,
AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Palm Desert, CA (December 17, 2012) – The [Food & Wine Festival Palm Desert™ 2013](http://palmdesertfoodandwine.com) announces this year's award-winning celebrity chefs, wine experts, and highly-rated estate wines from around the world with educational presentations by master vintners. The event takes place March 22-24, 2013.

The Food & Wine Festival Palm Desert brings together the brightest and most inspired chefs from throughout the United States for three extraordinary days of culinary events and food and wine tastings under the “Big White Tent” in Palm Desert, CA. This event is uniquely educational and benefits the Friends of the James Beard Foundation, The Culinary Institute of America's Endowed Scholarship Fund, and Les Dames d'Escoffier.

Scheduled to appear:

Michael Green – Wine and Spirits Expert

Michael Green is a long-time icon in the wine and spirits industry serving as *Gourmet Magazine's* wine and spirits expert for 19 years. He serves as the Wine and Spirits Director and lead presenter for the Food Network Atlantic City Food & Wine Festival and is the headlining wine and spirits personality on the national Buick Discovery Tour. Michael travels the world thrilling audiences with his spirited wine and mixology performances sharing his love of wine, spirits, and authentic experiences.

Luciano Pellegrini – James Beard Award Winner and Executive Chef, Valentino, The Venetian

Luciano Pellegrini is a James Beard Award-winning chef who has brought the fresh flavors and elegant Italian cuisine to Valentino in Las Vegas. Under the guidance of Pellegrini, Valentino is the showcase restaurant of the Venetian Hotel and has won two Epicurean Awards from *Las Vegas Live Magazine*. Pellegrini was nominated for 2003 Best Chef: Southwest by the James Beard Foundation, the only chef in Las Vegas to receive a nomination.

Tanya Holland – Author and Executive Chef/Owner of Brown Sugar Kitchen and B-Side BBQ

Chef Holland is the Executive Chef and Owner of Brown Sugar Kitchen and B-Side BBQ in Oakland, CA. She is also the author of *New Soul Cooking: Updating a Cuisine Rich in Flavor and Tradition* and the host and expert on soul food for the “Melting Pot” series on The Food Network and the Cooking Channel. Currently, she's a featured judge on TV One's, “My Momma Throws Down.”

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Andre Carthen – kathy ireland Worldwide Design Ambassador

[Chef Andre Carthen](#) is featured in Kathy Ireland's book *Real Solutions for Busy Moms: Your Guide to Success and Sanity* and Janet Jackson's first book – a NY Times #1 best seller, *True You* – where he contributed over 30 recipes for a healthy meal plan. He is often asked to bring his culinary awareness to the media and has appeared on many popular radio and television programs.

Sharone Hakman – Finalist, “MasterChef”

After becoming a finalist on Fox's hit show “MasterChef”, [Sharone Hakman](#) was offered a position at Mario Batali's famed Italian eatery, Mozza Osteria in Los Angeles. Sharone now owns a successful catering company, teaches cooking classes to fellow foodies, and has a line of signature gourmet BBQ sauces. This culinary showman is a highly acclaimed chef, dedicated family man, and active lifestyle enthusiast.

Sean Kanan – Author, Lead Character on ABC's “General Hospital”

[Sean Kanan](#) is an internationally renowned actor best known for his roles as Deacon Sharpe in the daytime drama “The Bold and the Beautiful” and currently as AJ Quartermaine on “General Hospital.” Sean is also the author of a how-to cookbook for men, *The Modern Gentlemen; Cooking and Entertaining with Sean Kanan*.

Alejandra Schrader – Owner Cucina Cocina and Finalist, “MasterChef”

[Alejandra Schrader](#), a resident of Playa del Rey, CA, is a top finalist from the latest season of “MasterChef.” She owns Cucina Cocina, a private chef business with a fellow “MasterChef” contestant, and continues to do public appearances and cooking demonstrations. Alejandra is a food blogger (Cook Global) and a strong advocate of health-conscious cooking.

Food & Wine Festival Palm Desert™ Schedule of Events

Friday, March 22, 2013: Food & Wine Festival Palm Desert James Beard Luncheon

- Enjoy a sit-down, four-course gourmet luncheon coupled with Estate wines with demonstrations by James Beard Award winning chefs. The event takes place from 11:30a.m. - 2:30p.m. Tickets are \$125 each.

Saturday, March 23: Food & Wine Festival Palm Desert Grand Tasting

- Day one of the festival showcases world renowned chefs and TV personalities, award-winning wines, world-class fine dining restaurants and book signing events. The Grand Tasting takes place from 11:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. Tickets are \$75.

Sunday, March 24: Day Two of the Food & Wine Festival Palm Desert Grand Tasting

- Day two of the festival continues. The Grand Tasting takes place from 12:00p.m. - 5:00p.m. Tickets are \$75.

To purchase tickets or for a complete list of participating chefs, restaurants, wineries and sponsors visit www.palmdesertfoodandwine.com. Food & Wine Festival Palm Desert is produced by J. Hocker & Associates, LLC and *Palm Springs Life* magazine.

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About Palm Springs Life

Palm Springs Life magazine has represented the greater Palm Springs area for 55 years. Their award-winning monthly publication, recognized as “California's Prestige Magazine,” is a perfect reflection of the special lifestyle of the desert resort communities. *Palm Springs Life* monthly editorial includes: the social scene, upcoming events including major golf and tennis tournaments, luxury homes, fine dining, fashion, travel, the arts and profiles of celebrity and business leaders.

About ID.CREATIVE

ID.CREATIVE is a full-service creative and media services agency with offices in Austin, Texas and Palm Springs and Los Angeles, CA. The agency focuses on creating, advancing and protecting brands, online and offline, across all channels.