

PALM DESERT FOOD & WINE

PRESENTED BY
AGUA CALIENTE CASINO RESORT SPA
MARCH 24-26, 2017

****MEDIA ALERT****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**A GLIMPSE OF THE OUTSTANDING BITES AND CHEF DEMONSTRATIONS FROM THE
7TH ANNUAL PALM DESERT FOOD & WINE PRESENTED BY
AGUA CALIENTE CASINO RESORT SPA ON MARCH 24-26 2017**

The epicurean culinary festival donated \$10,265 to FIND Food Bank, providing over 50,000 meals to the Coachella Valley community, to be presented at the 7th Annual Telethon on April 7, 2017



Palm Desert Food & Wine 2017 Chef Photos

WHAT: The seventh annual [Palm Desert Food & Wine](#) presented by Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa arrived in the heart of California's Coachella Valley kicking off with the return of the unforgettable James Beard Luncheon hosted by renowned food expert **Gail Simmons** and finishing strong with enticing chef demonstrations on Sunday. Produced by *Palm Springs Life*, the celebration included exceptional tastings from the country's finest talent as well as lunches, cookbook signings, and demonstrations for an incredible epicurean weekend. Palm Desert Food & Wine donated 35 meals for every festival ticket sold to Coachella Valley's [FIND Food Bank](#) culminating in over 50,000 meals for the community.

An ultra-impressive chef lineup headed to the desert bringing together legendary culinary talent, including Gail Simmons, Brooke Williamson, Aarti Sequeira, Tory McPhail, Casey Thompson, Stuart O'Keeffe, Chris Mitchum, Zack Bruell, Mike Milligan,

and Melissa King, just to name a few. Highlights and notable mention's throughout the weekend's exciting revelries included:

Thursday, March 23 – “An Evening in New Orleans” at Toscana Country Club

Reknowned Chef Tory McPhail of Commander's Palace in New Orleans and James Beard Award-Winning Chef Eric Wadlund of Toscana Country Club cooked up a one-of-a-kind experience of New Orleans flavors and tastes for guests. NOLA dishes and libations included Lobster Hushpuppies, Air-Dried Jidori Roulade, Shrimp & Tasso Henican, Chicory Coffee Lacquered Texas Quail, Brandy Milk Punch, and Strawberry & White Chocolate Bread Pudding.

Friday, March 24 – James Beard Four-Course Luncheon

The return of the popular James Beard Luncheon was a huge success featuring emcee Gail Simmons and cuisine expertly prepared by four standout chefs. Highlights include Chef Gail Gand's (Tru) Bacon Wrapped Shrimp Stuffed Sweet Peppers; Chef Tory McPhail's (Commander's Palace) Commander's Turtle Soup; Chef Casey Thompson's Braised Pork Cheek; and Pastry Chef Zac Young's (Craveable Hospitality Group) Strawberry Cheesecake Semifreddo and Graham Cracker Angel Food Cake.

Friday, March 24 – Celebrity Chef Reception at The Ford Estate

The 2017 festival chefs ventured out for a relaxing night of mingling and dining at the iconic former home of Gerald and Betty Ford in Rancho Mirage. Guests toured the beautiful estate while indulging in bites from “Top Chef” 2017 winner Brooke Williamson's new restaurant, Da Kikokiko, paired with Gail Simmons' Honey Lemonade Twist featuring Brooke's Strawberry Lemonade Ice Cubes.

Saturday, March 25 – Celebrity Chef Demonstrations & Grand Tasting

The Gardens on El Paseo was transformed into a foodie wonderland as guests had the opportunity to view distinguished chef demos and enjoy mouthwatering tastes of Biscuits with Lemon Curd and Date Butter along with Honey Lemonade Twist cocktails from Gail Simmons and Brooke Williamson; decadent Crawfish and Cognac with Creole Cream Cheese Gnocchi from Tory McPhail; a delightful Spring Pea and Burrata Salad from Casey Thompson; and a light and refreshing Quinoa Tabbouleh from Aarti Sequeira. Other restaurants and food vendors cooked up delicious samples for the crowds including Chi at The Avalon, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Minus 30° Handcrafted Frozen Dessert, Rubio's Coastal Grill, The Steakhouse at Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa, and WP Kitchen + Bar, among many others.

Sunday, March 26 – Celebrity Chef Demonstrations & Grand Tasting

The Sunday afternoon in the desert ended the culinary extravaganza with vivid cooking demos such as vegetable packed mac & cheese with popcorn topping from the Beekman Boys; hearty braised beef and fennel with wild mushroom risotto from Zack Bruell; chilean sea bass infused with orange and rosemary olive oil from local Executive Chef Mike Milligan; and a dessert oozing chocolately goodness by Stuart O'Keefe. Other impressive tastes and samples from outstanding local restaurants included Adobe Grill, Catalan Mediterranean Restaurant, Lulu California Bistro, Stone Brewing, Lagunitas

Brewing Company, and Cambria Estate Vineyard & Winery, just to name a few, while soaking up the last day of the Coachella Valley sun.

Palm Desert Food & Wine's culinary extravaganza resulted in a donation of \$10,265 to Coachella Valley's [FIND Food Bank](#), which provides food and essentials to those in need throughout the community. On **Friday, April 7**, FIND will host the **7th Annual Telethon** at their warehouse, a major fundraising and awareness-building event speaking to the community about fighting hunger locally, sponsored by CBS-Local 2. Throughout the evening, CBS-Local 2 will have a broadcast from 7-8 p.m. airing pre-taped stories that help tell FIND's journey as well as LIVE on-air interviews with people/organizations that FIND wants to recognize for their commitment to fighting hunger in the Coachella Valley. This includes thanking partner Palm Desert Food & Wine for their significant contribution.

PHOTOS: Images of Palm Desert Food & Wine presented by Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa (2017) are available to view/download by clicking [here](#).

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SPONSORS/PARTNERS: 2017 sponsors for Palm Desert Food & Wine presented by Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa include: *Palm Springs Life*; City of Palm Desert; Lexus; Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery; Better Built Inc.; Cambria; Effen Vodka; Miele; Constellation Brands; Celebrity Cruises; Shamrock Foods; Hotel Paseo; Chef Works; TRIO Restaurant; VOSS Artesian Water; Verterra; North Shore Living Herbs; Selvarey Rum; Sandy Young; Event Scape; Caliente Tropics Resort Hotel; and media sponsors KMIR, KPSE, LIVE Magazine, Valpak, and The Standard.

About Palm Desert Food & Wine Festival presented by Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa

The Palm Desert Food & Wine Festival presented by Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa is owned and operated by *Palm Springs Life*; produced by Tony Marchese; and with sponsorship support in part from City of Palm Desert; Lexus; Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery; Better Built Inc.; Cambria; Effen Vodka; Miele; Constellation Brands; Celebrity Cruises; Shamrock Foods; Hotel Paseo; Chef Works; TRIO Restaurant; VOSS Artesian Water; Verterra; North Shore Living Herbs; Selvarey Rum; Sandy Young; Event Scape; Caliente Tropics Resort Hotel; and media sponsors KMIR, KPSE, LIVE Magazine, Valpak, and The Standard. The annual food and wine event gathers the brightest and most inspired chefs and culinary personalities from around the country for three extraordinary days of food and wine tasting. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Coachella Valley's FIND Food Bank. For more information visit www.palmdesertfoodandwine.com or visit us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#).

About Palm Springs Life

Palm Springs Life has represented the greater Palm Springs area for nearly 60 years. Its award-winning monthly publication is a reflection of the special lifestyle of the desert resort communities. *Palm Springs Life's* monthly editorial content includes: 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 FIND Food Bank

FIND Food Bank, founded in 1983, is the regional food bank serving eastern Riverside County, from White-water to Blythe, and from the high desert to the Salton Sea. FIND (Food In Need of Distribution) is dedicated to relieving hunger, the causes of hunger, and problems associated with hunger by building awareness and mobilizing resources and community to take action to end hunger. Our network of community-based partners distributes 10+ million pounds of food assistance annually to an average 85,000+ people each month across our service area. FIND is a member of Feeding America and the California Association of Food Banks. To learn more about how you can help, please call FIND Food Bank at 760-775-3663 or visit FINDFoodBank.org.

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