

Celebrity chefs are a vital ingredient in Naples Winter Wine Festival

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Award-winning chef Barbara Lynch returns to Naples Winter Wine Festival for her fourth year in 2015, this time as the honored Chef de Cuisine. Recognized as one of the top chef-restaurateurs in her native Boston and throughout the country, Chef Lynch will be joined by 17 all-star chefs and 41 acclaimed vintners for the weekend of food, wine and philanthropy Jan. 23-25 at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort.

Chef Lynch is the CEO of Barbara Lynch Gruppo, comprised of many of Boston's best restaurants and culinary experiences, including No. 9 Park, B&G Oysters and Menton, which is Boston's only AAA Five-Diamond, Forbes Five-Star and Relais & Châteaux property. Named Outstanding Restaurateur by the James Beard Foundation this year, she is a four-time James Beard Award winner and is the only female in the country to hold the distinguished title of Grand Chef Relais & Châteaux.

Chefs for the 2015 NWWF come to Naples from some of the United States' most celebrated restaurants in 11 different cities and hold a collective 23 James Beard awards. They are:

- Paul Bartolotta of Bartolotta Ristorante Di Mare, Las Vegas
- Tom Colicchio of Craft Restaurants, New York and other cities
- Curtis Duffy of Grace, Chicago

- Ryan Hardy of Charlie Bird, New York City
 - Melissa Kelly of Primo Restaurant, Rockland, Maine
 - Gerry Klaskala of Aria, Atlanta
 - Joseph Lenn of The Barn at Blackberry Farm, Walland, Tenn.
 - Matthias Merges of A10 Hyde Park, Chicago
 - Carrie Nahabedian of NAHA, Chicago
 - Carmen Quagliata of Union Square Café, New York City
 - Kent Rathbun & Kevin Rathbun of Abacus, Dallas, and Rathbun Steak, Atlanta
 - Richard Reddington of REDD, Napa Valley, Cali.
 - Giuseppe Tentori of GT Fish & Oyster, Chicago
 - Rick Tramonto and John Folsie of Restaurant R'evolution, New Orleans
 - Cindy Wolf of Charleston, Baltimore
- Tickets to NWWF 2015: "Imagine the Possibilities" start at \$8,500 per couple and go up to \$20,000 for a package that includes reserved seating for a party of four at the same vintner dinner and under the auction tent.

Festival proceeds benefit area children's charities through the festival's founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation. For more information, call (888) 837-4919 or visit napleswinefestival.com. ■



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