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## **Scottsdale Culinary Festival, Arizona's Tastiest Fundraiser, Returns for Two Days of Food, Fun and Festivities, April 16-17, 2016**

40 local restaurants, 30 craft breweries, 20 bands, a teen cooking challenge, chef demos, family zone, wine garden, and vodka lounge top 2016 highlights

Scottsdale, AZ (December 9, 2015)-Scottsdale Culinary Festival, Arizona's tastiest fundraiser is set to return to the Scottsdale Civic Center Mall on Saturday, April 16 – Sunday, April 17, 2016. Hosted by the Scottsdale League for the Arts, event highlights include 40 local restaurants, 30 craft breweries, 20 bands, a teen cooking challenge, chef demos, family zone, wine garden, and a vodka lounge.

Participating restaurants for 2016 include (so far): The Neighborhood Treatery, Grimaldi's, Roka Akor, Sushi Roku, Honey Bear's BBQ, Pita Jungle, The District, Delice Bistro, Inchin's Bamboo Garden, Dakota, SanTan Brewing Company and more.

Presented by Nationwide, the 25-acre Scottsdale Culinary Festival grounds will feature eleven themed zones jam packed with interactive experiences to taste, sip and celebrate the Arizona food culture. Access to all zone activity is included in the general admission ticket pricing, *with the exception of the VIP zone and the Southwest Festival of Beers.*

Hosted by Blue Moon, the Southwest Festival of Beers will feature 200 specialty beers from local and national craft breweries, food from local restaurants and beer games. In the Culinary Experience Tent education is the focus with a mixology demo, chocolate making demo, meet the brewers panel, food photography seminar and urban farming seminar.

Presented by Pismo Beach CVB, the Epicurean Expo will feature chef demos, student cooking challenges, wine seminars and the latest in kitchen and cooking gadgets. Upstairs overlooking the Expo will be a lounge area to kick back and enjoy a specialty cocktail by top mixologists. The lounge will also feature phone charging stations.

A new addition to Sunday's lineup and held in the Virginia Piper Theatre, is the Challenge to the Chefs: Teen Edition Presented by Whole Foods and the kitchen sponsored by SubZero Wolf. The winner of the challenge will walk away with bragging rights, a \$500 gift card to Whole Foods and a kitchen start-up gift from SubZero Wolf.

Fun abounds in the Family Zone where kiddos will enjoy face painting, bouncy houses, carnival games, a magician, crafts and more. Take a break from and enjoy live entertainment on three stages or head over to the Skyy Bar, Campari Cocktail Deck and the Francis Ford Coppola Winery Wine Garden to try the festival libations.

### **Scottsdale Culinary Festival Quick Facts**

**When:** Saturday, April 16, 2016, noon – 9 p.m.  
Sunday, April 17, 2016, noon – 6 p.m.

**Price Points:** \$10 General Admission  
Kids 12 and under are free

\$40 Southwest Festival of Beers – includes GA to the Scottsdale Culinary Festival + a souvenir tasting mug and 20 beer samples

\$140 Saturday VIP Admission

\$115 Sunday VIP Admission

VIP admission includes a meet and greet with celebrity chefs, exclusive demo seating, and unlimited food & wine tastings inside the VIP tent, while supplies last

**Where:** Scottsdale Civic Center Mall, 7380 E Second Street, AZ 85251

**Tickets:** [www.scottsdalefest.org](http://www.scottsdalefest.org)

Traditionally, the Scottsdale Culinary Festival activities span an entire week in mid-April. This year, the Scottsdale League for the Arts is adding new events and breaking up the annual events across January – April, 2016 in an effort to cater to a wide range of interests and cultural experiences. For a complete list of events, please visit [www.scottsdalefest.org](http://www.scottsdalefest.org).

All net proceeds raised will support the non-profit Scottsdale League for the Arts in its effort to promote the arts and arts education organizations in the Phoenix metropolitan area, via annual fundraisers such as the Scottsdale Culinary Festival and The Friends of James Beard Benefit Dinner. Since 2002, the League has contributed more than \$4 million to numerous organizations such as Ballet Arizona, Childsplay, and Free Arts of Arizona.

### **About the Scottsdale League for the Arts**

The Scottsdale League for the Arts is a 501(c)(3), non-profit volunteer organization of accomplished men and women who support artists, arts programs and arts education through fundraising and special events. In order to offer continuous value and assistance to the arts, the League awards all net funds raised to a variety of arts focused organizations through a grants program. For more information visit: <http://leagueforthearts.org>.

### **About HDE Agency**

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