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Support Colorado's Restaurant Workers and Dining Scene at the *Denver Food + Wine Festival, September 4 - 7, 2024*

The multi-day culinary event celebrates the best food and drink the Centennial State has to offer, while raising funds to help local hospitality employees advance and thrive.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 2, 2024

Denver, CO – The **Colorado Restaurant Foundation** (CRF) is thrilled to announce that the Denver Food + Wine Festival (<https://denverfoodandwine.com/>) will be back from **Wednesday, September 4, through Saturday, September 7, 2024**. This multi-day extravaganza of food, wine, and spirits, hosted in partnership with **Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits** (SGWS), showcases Colorado's incredible restaurant community while raising funds to help hospitality workers across the state advance and thrive – in their careers and their lives.

Proceeds from festival events go to the CRF to fund industry-employee education, training, and health-and-wellness programming. The CRF manages an [award-winning statewide apprenticeship program](#); [Colorado ProStart®](#), our high school culinary and management entrepreneurship program; mental health-and-wellness resources for restaurant workers; and the Angel Relief Fund, which provides hardship and mental healthcare grants for Colorado hospitality employees.

The main event is the Denver Food + Wine Festival [Grand Tasting](#), which takes place from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 7, at the Tivoli Quad (1000 Larimer Street, Denver) on the Auraria Campus. Highlights include delicious bites from more than 40 outstanding Colorado restaurants, plus samples of hundreds of wines, spirits, and other beverages from SGWS.

NEW IN 2024: Colorado ProStart® students are recruited every year to pitch in throughout the festival, gaining valuable experience helping participating restaurant teams prepare the thousands of bites they'll serve at the Grand Tasting and other festival events. This year, we're excited to **pair five Colorado ProStart® classes from area high schools with five of the state's Top Chef alumni, to cook and serve together at the event**, including: Manny Barella, who starred in 2024's Season 21; Hosea Rosenberg, winner of Season 5; Carrie Baird, a finalist from Season 15, which was set in Colorado; Byron Gomez, from Season 18; and Brother Luck, who also starred in Season 15.

The chefs will teach each class how to make the dish they'll serve at the Grand Tasting, the students will prep the bites needed for the event, and then they'll serve the dish alongside their chef on September 7. "It's going to be a fantastic learning experience for these ProStart students, and the chefs are excited to mentor our next generation of culinary leaders," says Laura Shunk, CRF President.

Also new this year is the [DF+WF Dine Out auction](#), an online offering of unique culinary experiences and travel opportunities that will go to the highest bidders, with proceeds benefiting the CRF. Many Dine Out experiences will take place on Friday, September 6, during the festival; others will be scheduled for



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future dates. The CRF is currently building out the Dine Out catalogue, but confirmed experiences include a six-person Friulian wine seminar with Master Sommelier and Frasca Food and Wine partner Bobby Stuckey; a chef's tasting with drinks for four at Sáp Súra; and dinner for two with drinks at the new chef's counter at Hop Alley.

"The Denver Food + Wine Festival is the biggest and most impactful fundraising event of the year for our restaurant community," says Laura Shunk, CRF president. "Proceeds directly benefit the hospitality employees who work tirelessly to make our communities feel like home. Thanks to this series of events, the CRF team can support our industry through workforce development programming, emergency grants, and so much more."

Discounted tickets for [CRF Party List email subscribers](#) are already on sale, and early-bird pricing begins for the general public on July 24; learn more at [2024 Denver Food + Wine Festival](#).

The 2024 festival schedule is as follows, with full culinary and beverage lineups coming soon:

[Riedel Wine Glass Seminar](#): Wednesday, September 4 // 6 p.m.

The beloved, limited-seating Riedel Wine Glass Seminar is back, during which attendees experience first-hand the effect that the shape of a wine glass has on unique varietals.

[Shake + Brake Showdown](#): Thursday, September 5 // 7 to 10 p.m.

Returning to the Denver Food + Wine Festival after a sell-out event in 2023, the Shake + Brake Showdown is a friendly cocktail and food-truck competition, also set at the Tivoli Quad. Attendees will vote on their favorite truck and cocktail while dancing to DJ sets, playing lawn games, and more. Participating food trucks include two-time returning "Shake + Brake Showdown Best Food Truck" Chile con Quesadilla, newcomer Mile High Tikka Express, and fan-fave Blue Pan Pizza. *Tickets: Early bird: \$60; regular price: \$70*

[Dine Out culinary auction](#): Friday, September 6 (and future dates)

New to the DF+WF this year, the Dine Out auction includes a range of exclusive culinary experiences, many of which take place on Friday, September 6; other experiences will be scheduled by the winning bidder for future dates. The auction will open on August 1 and conclude on August 28. More information and debut items are at [Denver Food & Wine Festival | 2024 | Dine Out](#).

[The Grand Tasting](#): Saturday, September 7 // Noon to 4 p.m.

The DF+WF Grand Tasting showcases Colorado's culinary leaders – award-winning chefs, mixologists, and wine professionals – who will share bites and sips that explore and celebrate our state's dynamic food-and-beverage scene. Restaurant participants include Le French, Kawa Ni, Bin 707 Foodbar, Bodega, Fruition, Bistro Mariposa, MAKfam, and many more.

- **VIP (\$275 early bird; \$300 regular price)**: Admission begins at noon and includes access to the exclusive VIP Lounge, Riedel glassware for sampling, bites from ten high-end restaurants, reserve wines, tasting seminars, and early tastes of the full Grand Tasting lineup of restaurants, wines, and spirits.



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- **First Taste (\$175 early bird; \$225 regular price):** Admission begins at noon, a full hour before General Admission entry, and includes early access to the Grand Tasting lineup of restaurants, wines, and spirits.
- **General Admission (\$150 early bird; \$175 regular price):** Admission begins at 1 p.m., with access to the Grand Tasting lineup of restaurants, wines, and spirits.

Please let us know if you need any digital assets, including logos and photos, or if you'd like to speak with someone at the CRF about the Denver Food + Wine Festival. Media passes are available. Thank you for helping us spread the word!

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About the Colorado Restaurant Association

The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA) is dedicated to the enhancement and success of Colorado's foodservice industry. Founded in 1933, the CRA is the leading trade organization for the state's dynamic restaurant scene. The CRA represents, educates, and promotes an \$18 billion industry comprising more than 13,000 eating and drinking establishments and 303,000 workers. corestaurant.org

About the Colorado Restaurant Foundation

Established in 1987, the Colorado Restaurant Foundation (CRF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and the philanthropic foundation of the Colorado Restaurant Association. The CRF's mission is to train all individuals in – and entering – the foodservice industry and provide health and wellness resources to industry employees. Corestaurant.org/foundation

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