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Los Angeles Celebration of Food & Wine

Big names in L.A. dining come together.

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By Susan Carpenter, Los Angeles Times
September 2, 2010

The first Los Angeles Times Celebration of Food & Wine brings together some of the biggest names in L.A. dining for a day of cooking demonstrations, panel discussions and, of course, a smorgasbord of tasty treats that will keep foodies sated. The one-day event, taking place Sunday on the studio back lot of Paramount Pictures in Hollywood, will

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Suzanne Goin is slated to give a cooking demo Sunday. (Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times)

get cooking on a variety of stages where attendees can learn firsthand how to stuff a chicken roulade and pour a plum blossom cocktail, or just sit back, relax and enjoy beer tastings, a taco from a fleet of food trucks or a concert by She & Him.

Among the cooking demonstrations are a farm-to-table session featuring Suzanne Goin of AOC and Lucques and Mark Peel of Campanile and the Tar Pit; Roger Mooking, host of "Everyday Exotic" on the Cooking Channel, serving up sizzling Sichuan; and Aida Mollenkamp, of the Food Network's "Ask Aida," showing how to make flatbread with bacon and caramelized onions.

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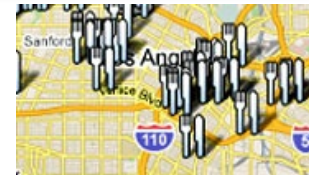


Panel discussion topics include food blogging, featuring Ree Drummond, writer of the Pioneer Woman blog, and Aarti Sequeira, winner of this season's "Next Food Network Star"; life after "Top Chef," with Betty Fraser Season 2, C.J. Jacobsen of Season 3 and Alex Reznik of this season; L.A.'s new star chefs, including Jon Shook and Vinny Dotolo of Animal and Michael Voltaggio; and reinventing Latin cuisine, featuring John Sedlar of Rivera, Jimmy Shaw of Loteria Grill and Ricardo Zarate of Mo-Chica.

Los Angeles Times Food section editor Russ Parsons and Los Angeles Times Test Kitchen manager Noelle Carter each will host question-and-answer sessions.

Eating to excess is encouraged. Don Chow Tacos, Wahoo's, the Sweets Truck and Coolhaus are among the food trucks that will be on hand. Wine tastings will be accompanied by wine chats, hosted by Matthew Kaner and Dustin Lancaster of Bar Covell, Jeff Smith of Carte du Vin and others.

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Sunday's festivities wind down with performances by Angela McCluskey and the band She & Him.

Los Angeles Times Celebration of Food & Wine, Paramount Pictures Studios, 5555 Melrose Ave., Hollywood. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. \$55 general admission, \$40 concert; children 9 and younger free with ticketed adult. Information:

events.latimes.com/foodandwine.

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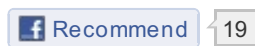
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dlsteen1 at 11:28 AM September 06, 2010

I was not impressed with this event at all, the best food was being SOLD at the catering trucks. The actual food tastings were sparse and frankly not very good. The event marketing was also misleading. You were lead to believe that that VIP... ticket allowed you unlimited tastings for the event, which was not true. In addition, there was no seating and a large number of VIP tables were left uncovered in the hot afternoon sun.

The very best items that I tasted today were the Calamari from Tantalum, Blackheart Spiced Rum, KyoChon Chicken and the Cucumber Spa drink from the Vee V Acai Spirit booths. Honorable mention goes out to the following:

Ivan Kane's Cafe Was Stuffed Date, the Chipotle Chocolate from Madame Chocolat, Leblon Cachaca and the brownie from Cookie Casa.

The worst bite that I sampled all day was the Burrata alla Caprese, from Locanda Del Lago, which was a gooey mass of cheese with a pretentious tomato sorbet. All and all this event was not worth the admission. I only hope that the donations to Share Our Strength and the LA Times Family Fund's are substantial enough to justify the cost of admission. As a suggestion to the Event Coordinators, try and hold the 2nd annual event in November. Feeling ripped off while scorching in the September sun only adds insult to injury.

amysmythe at 11:16 PM September 05, 2010

The reporting on this event and the event's web site should have been more clear about what the general admission ticket got you. Many, including myself, thought it included food and drink samples. Yes, the wineries there were pouring -and generously. However, there were few food samples, and there had been no announcement that the food trucks that would be there would be charging. And due to the amount of people, the lines for food truck food were very long, and thus many people had little to eat but way too much alcohol. All that said, my husband and I enjoyed the talks (did without the cooking demonstrations) and loved the concert with Angela McCluskey and She and Him. Work out the kinks and you might have something.



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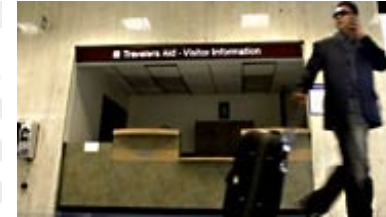
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