



## **TASTE OF ATLANTA ANNOUNCES 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BEST SOMMELIER COMPETITION & 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BARCRAFT CELEBRATION**

### **Best Sommelier Competition Features Top Talent from Across Georgia**

### **Barcraft Celebration Welcomes the Public to Attend Cocktail Workshops Prior to the Festival**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*—Taste of Atlanta, the city's award-winning food, craft beer, wine and spirits festival showcasing the local restaurant scene, announces details for the 4th Annual Best Sommelier Competition and 10th Annual Taste of Atlanta Barcraft Celebration.

Coordinated by Taste of Atlanta in association with the Southeastern Sommelier Society, this year's Best Sommelier Competition is in full swing. Through Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, sommeliers from across Georgia can test their knowledge in an online test, answering as many wine-related questions as possible within 20 minutes. Sommeliers of any level of certification are welcome to complete, and the top scoring participants will advance to the finals round held on Monday, September 24 at City Winery at Ponce City Market from 6:30-9pm. The finalists will be challenged throughout several rounds of interactive tests on wine service, blind tasting and theory, and ultimately, one will be named the 2018 Best Sommelier by a panel of judges including Phillip Burrus, Southeastern Sommelier Society; Jacob Gragg, Banfi Vintners; Gil Kulers, Piedmont Driving Club; 2017 Winner Adam Pucillo, Del Frisco's Double Eagle; Clarke

Anderson, Ford Fry Restaurant Group; and Kacey Jane Ivey, Quality Wine & Spirits. The emcee for the event will be Eric Crane of Empire Distributors.

Tickets to attend the finals are available to the public [here](#) and cost \$50. Guests can enjoy wine and food pairings curated by City Winery Executive Chef Nick Anderson, Beverage Director JR Smith and David Almeida of Winesellers Ltd. On Saturday, October 20th, the winner of Best Sommelier Competition will team up with Chef Joe Paire of Barcelona restaurant to present a food and wine pairing as part of a “Brunch-a-holics” demonstration on the Chef’s Table stage at Taste of Atlanta.

Sponsored by Bulleit Bourbon and in celebration of 10 years of the Taste of Atlanta Barcraft Competition, the Barcraft Celebration will bring together Atlanta’s best bartenders to host cocktail workshops at Atlanta restaurants prior to the festival. The workshops are open to the public, and attendees will learn how to make creative bourbon cocktails. The celebration continues on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> in the Taste of Atlanta VIP Experience area, where Atlanta bartenders will serve specialty Bulleit Bourbon cocktails. It culminates on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> as bartenders craft cocktail creations and join a panel on the Home Plate Stage discussing what’s hot in the mixology world right now. For updates on the Barcraft Celebration and cocktail workshops, visit [www.TasteofAtlanta.com](http://www.TasteofAtlanta.com).

Featuring craveable bites and bevs from more than 90 of Atlanta’s favorite restaurants, Taste of Atlanta brings together food lovers of all ages and chefs from neighborhoods across Atlanta for three days. Local chefs and hospitality pros will lead on-stage cooking demos and hands-on cooking classes, while guests sample food from restaurants plus craft beer, wine and cocktails.

Tickets are now on sale [here](#) for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Atlanta held at Old Fourth Ward Park this October 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. To keep up with Taste of Atlanta details, check out the official festival website at [www.TasteofAtlanta.com](http://www.TasteofAtlanta.com), sign up for the Bite of News newsletter [here](#) and follow Taste of Atlanta on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

### **About Taste of Atlanta**

Celebrating its 17th year in 2018, Taste of Atlanta is the city’s food and drink festival showcasing the local restaurant scene and attracting food lovers from the region and beyond. Throughout three days of bites and bevs, more than 100 of Atlanta’s favorite restaurants will show off their most craveable dishes alongside live on-stage cooking demos from top chefs, a Barcraft Competition crowning the best bartender, and an all-inclusive Friday Night Kick-off Party with outstanding food and music. Save the date for this fall’s Taste of Atlanta in Historic Fourth Ward Park on October 19th, 20th and 21st,

2018. *Oprah Magazine* named Taste of Atlanta as the “Top Food Festival Worth the Trip,” and Taste of Atlanta has won *Creative Loafing’s* “Best Food Festival or Event” for six years running. This year’s sponsors include Bulleit Bourbon, Georgia Peanut Commission, Hammer Stahl, Nissan, Sprouts, PeachDish, Community Coffee and Hammer Stahl, the official cookware sponsor of Taste of Atlanta. For more information, please visit [www.TasteofAtlanta.com](http://www.TasteofAtlanta.com), and follow Taste of Atlanta on Facebook ([Taste of Atlanta](https://www.facebook.com/TasteofAtlanta)), Twitter ([@tasteofatlanta](https://twitter.com/tasteofatlanta)) and Instagram ([@tasteofatlanta](https://www.instagram.com/tasteofatlanta)).