

THE 9TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL

Risotto Festival

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2 - 6 PM



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Aubre Barr (713) 986-3370
Aubre.Barr@cac.hctx.net

HOUSTON'S TOP CHEFS TO COMPETE AT THE INTERNATIONAL RISOTTO FESTIVAL - NOV 13

Tickets Now on Sale!

HOUSTON, TX (September 15, 2011) – Fans of fine food and wine are cordially invited to attend one of Houston's finest culinary festivals. **The International Risotto Festival** will be held on **Sunday, November 13 from 2 – 6 pm** at **The Houston Design Center** www.TheHoustonDesignCenter.com. This gourmet strolling event includes an afternoon of delicious Italian foods and wines including samplings of delicious antipasti; tastings of all the risotto entries; music and entertainment; exotic cars; raffle drawing; children's play area with activities for kids; and designer showroom tours.

Tickets are now on sale and may be purchased online at www.RisottoFestival.com for \$65 per person (or \$55 if purchased by Oct 7). Festival Tickets at the gate will be \$75 per person and children under 12 are free. VIP tickets are also available for \$125 per person and include special parking and access to the VIP lounge where guests can mingle with participating chefs and judges, sip fine wines and enjoy a selection of antipasti and desserts. Reserved wine tables with seating for 6 guests and VIP privileges are available for \$1,250 each.

This year's culinary competition benefits The Children's Assessment Center www.cachouston.org. The Children's Assessment Center's mission is to provide a professional, compassionate and coordinated approach to the treatment of sexually abused children and their families and to serve as an advocate for all children in our community.

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Some of Houston's top chefs will be cooking in this year's competition including last year's winner, Executive Chef Jon Buchanan of *Trevisio*. Chef Buchanan will be joined by executive chefs Jamie Zelko of *Zelko Bistro*, David Grossman – *Branch Water Tavern*, John Sheely – *Mockingbird Bistro*, Carmelo Mauro – *Carmelo's*, Maurizio Ferrarese – *Quatro/Four Seasons*, Ricky Cruz – *Grotto*, Michel Mazza – *Tratoria Il Mulino*, Renato DePirro – *Ristorante Cavour/Hotel Granduca* and others to be announced.

Serving as Honorary Chair of the 2011 International Risotto Festival is the **Consul General of Italy, Fabrizio Nava**. Consul General Fabrizio Nava graduated from the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in 1993 with a degree in Political Science. He joined the Italian Foreign Service in 1995. His assignments have included posts in New Delhi, India and Ottawa, Canada. The Honorable Nava was appointed Consul General of Italy and he and his family moved to Houston in July of 2010.

For more information, contact Aubre Barr at (713) 986-3370 or visit www.RisottoFestival.com.

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