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**Live Fire! Austin's Favorite Meaty Showdown
Brings the Heat in the Heart of Austin
22 Chefs Fire It up with Flames, Beef & the Flavors of Mexico at
Camp Mabry, April 5**

*Austin Food & Wine Alliance Fundraiser Benefiting Culinary Grants:
Tickets on Sale Today with Discount for First 150 Tickets Sold*

AUSTIN, TX (February 28, 2018) – **Live Fire!**, Austin's most anticipated celebration of all things beef, returns this spring with a sizzling hot lineup of top-notch chefs from across the U.S. and Mexico. The annual meat fest is **Thursday, April 5, from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Camp Mabry**. Tickets go on sale today at AustinFoodWineAlliance.org, and the **first 150 tickets sold will be discounted to \$85**, thereafter available for \$95 online.

Fanning the flames at what is regarded as one of the country's foremost celebrations of beef will be nationally recognized chefs and local favorites **Aaron Franklin of Franklin Barbecue, Miguel Vidal and Modesty Vidal of Valentina's Tex Mex BBQ**, and **Rick Lopez of La Condesa**. Joining the Texas lineup from Mexico is **Joaquin Cardoso and Sofia Cortina Camargo of Hotel Carlota (Mexico City, Mexico)**, and **Susana Trilling of Seasons of My Heart, Cooking School & Gourmet Store (Oaxaca, Mexico)** and **Kaelin Ulrich Trilling of Bajo Sexto Taco and Bajo Sexto Taco Lounge (Nashville)**. *Food & Wine's* Best New Chef 2017, **Val Cantu of Californios (San Francisco, California)**, will also be featured at Live Fire!

Additional all-star talent includes **Alma Alcocer-Thomas of El Alma, Andre Natera of Fairmont, Andrew Stiver of Vista Brewing, Anne Ng and Jeremy Mandrell of Bakery Lorraine (San Antonio), Daniel Brooks of Licha's Cantina, Evan LeRoy of LeRoy & Lewis, Fermín Núñez and Sam Hellman-Mass of Suerte, Kevin Taylor of ATX Cocina, Louis Ciola of Salt & Time, Page Pressley of Emmer & Rye, Rene Ortiz and Laura Sawicki of Fresa's, Rico Torres and Diego Galicia of Mixtli (San Antonio), and Tien Ho of Whole Foods Market.**

Brent Fogerty of Cold One Pops and Katherine Clapner of Dude, Sweet Chocolate (Dallas) will be serving up sweets.

In its eighth year, the annual meat fest will turn up the heat with music entertainment from Vanessa del Fierro and the Mariachi Las Coronelas trio. Washington State Wine will kick off the celebration with bubbles; Hops & Grain will serve Suerte beer, only available at the restaurant opening. Additionally, Cold One Pops will offer specialty fudgesicles made with mole from Suerte, and Vista Brewing will offer beer pairings with interior Mexican cuisine.

The **live-fire cooking event** debuted with the Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Festival in 2011 and has continued to attract **a sold-out crowd** as one of Austin's most popular and provocative culinary events. In this unforgettable all-beef immersion, **Live Fire!** features the best in **sizzling proteins and cooking craftsmanship alongside impressive wines, craft beers, premium spirits tastings, and live music.**

For this year's edition, Live Fire! features not only a **red-hot lineup of celebrated chefs** but also a **unique VIP experience** and tribute to mezcal and tequila, with "Agave Alley" featuring an array of mezcal and tequila cocktails, in addition to Washington State guided tastings paired with interior Mexican cuisine. The Live Fire! VIP pass includes early entry, **6 p.m. – 7 p.m.** The Live Fire! VIP experience is \$150 and only 100 passes will be sold.

Live Fire! attendees will enjoy live music, curated wine, spirits, and craft brews along with a dazzling menu of innovative hot-fire cooked beef dishes prepared by the aforementioned celebrated chefs. Tickets are expected to sell out again and are available for [online purchase](#) now.

Live Fire! is a fundraiser benefit for the **Austin Food & Wine Alliance (AFWA)**, the culinary nonprofit dedicated to fostering awareness and innovation in the Central Texas food and beverage community. Proceeds from the sizzling tasting event will help AFWA give back to the local culinary community through a **vibrant grant program for chefs, farmers, artisan producers, and nonprofits by funding projects focused on culinary innovation.**

AFWA hosts engaging culinary events throughout the year **to raise funds for the grants, the nation's first grant program based on culinary innovation. Since 2012, AFWA has awarded \$192,500 in grants to fund local culinary projects.**

As the key beneficiary of the [Austin FOOD & WINE Festival](#), April 27 – 29, AFWA features educational programming and culinary events showcasing Central Texas's chef talent along with artisan and local producers, world-class wine and spirit makers, and craft brewers.

The Alliance continues to win tremendous community support with **Whole Foods Market** as a presenting sponsor and other key supporters, including **Austin Food & Wine Festival, ABC Bank, Republic National Distributing Company, Southern Glazer's, Austin Monthly, FreshPoint, Giant Noise, AT&T Executive Education & Conference Center, Twin Liquors, CultureMap, Premiere Events, Butler Wood, B&B Charcoal, Max Photography, Fresa's Chicken Al Carbon, Balcones Recycling, Polsinelli, Topo Chico, Culinary Agents, Cuvee Coffee, Beam Suntory, Patron, William Grant & Sons, Campari, Kimo Sabe Mezcal, Lowe's Home Improvement, Texas Beef Council, Washington State Wine, Sysco,** and more.

For more information about AFWA, visit AustinFoodWineAlliance.org, call 512.348.6847, or email Info@AustinFoodWineAlliance.org. Stay up to date with Austin Food & Wine Alliance happenings on Facebook <http://facebook.com/austinfoodwinealliance> and Twitter <http://twitter.com/ATXFoodWineAlly>.

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ABOUT THE AUSTIN FOOD AND WINE ALLIANCE

The Austin Food & Wine Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering awareness and innovation in the Central Texas culinary community through grants, educational programming, and events. Guided by an all-volunteer board of directors and committees made up of culinary- and community-minded professionals, the Alliance's commitment is to promote Texas food, wine, spirits, and craft brews and to increase appreciation of Texas' culinary impact. The AFWA is the designated beneficiary of the [Austin FOOD & WINE Festival](#). For more information about the Austin Food & Wine Alliance, visit AustinFoodWineAlliance.org.