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## FAMED CHEF LIDIA BASTIANICH FEATURED AT LUNCHEON HONORING WOMEN IN CULINARY NOVEMBER 8

Austin Food & Wine Alliance & Les Dames d'Escoffier Hosts  
Cookbook Author & PBS-TV Star for *Lunch with Lidia*  
Tickets on Sale Today

**AUSTIN, TX (October 16, 2018)** – Austin fans and food lovers will have the opportunity to meet and dine with culinary royalty at ***Lunch with Lidia: Honoring Women in Culinary*** on Thursday, November 8, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., as part of a two-day Austin visit from the legendary Italian chef, author, and television personality Lidia Bastianich.

Two of Austin's favorite nonprofits – the Austin Food & Wine Alliance and the Austin Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier, a women's culinary professional organization – will host the fundraising luncheon at East Austin's upscale 7co (formerly LaV restaurant) to raise money for scholarships as well as to fund culinary grants for dynamic Austin culinary projects. Ticket sales launch today [online](http://austinfoodwinealliance.org) at [austinfoodwinealliance.org](http://austinfoodwinealliance.org) and are \$125 each, with VIP tables available for \$1,500.

Only 100 tickets will be sold to the intimate luncheon that will include a cocktail reception and three-courses with wine pairings prepared by acclaimed Chef Shawn Cirkiel, chef/owner of Parkside Projects.

The luncheon includes a book signing for Bastianich's newest book, *My American Dream: A Life of Love, Family, and Food*, which will be on sale, and a silent auction benefiting culinary scholarships and grants. The program for **Lunch with Lidia: Honoring Women in Culinary** includes **Kendall Antonelli**, President of Les Dames d'Escoffier Austin Chapter and Co-Owner of Antonelli's Cheese Shop; **Mariam Parker**, Executive Director of Austin Food & Wine Alliance; and **Cathy Cochran-Lewis**, Communications & Operations Director for Whole Kids Foundation, who will lead an on-stage conversation with Bastianich.

The Austin Food & Wine Alliance brings Bastianich to Austin for a sold-out dinner as part of the Alliance's *Wine and Dine Series presented by Whole Foods Market* that evening at L'oco d'Oro with Chef/Owner Fiore Tedesco.

Additionally, Bastianich will be featured at [Whole Foods Market Downtown's Celebrate Italian](#) event on Wednesday, Nov. 7, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. with a book signing, sampling of specialty Italian products, and wine samples of Bastianich Wines. Also, a wheel of Parmesan Reggiano will be “cracked.” BookPeople will be selling her books.

Bastianich is one of the most-loved chefs on television, a best-selling author of 13 cookbooks, and the Emmy award-winning host of public television's *Lidia's Kitchen*, which airs internationally. She is a judge on *MasterChef Junior Italy* and Italy's highly rated daily program *La Prova del Cuoco*. Her flourishing food and entertainment business includes four acclaimed New York City restaurants - *Felidia*, *Becco*, *Esca*, and *Del Posto* - and she is a partner in *Eataly*, the largest artisanal Italian food and wine marketplace with locations in New York, Chicago, Sao Paolo, Boston, and Los Angeles.

Bastianich has been named one of New York's most influential businesswomen by *Crain's* and is a founding member of Women Chefs and Restaurateurs. She is a member of the New York City Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier and, in 2017, Bastianich was awarded the prestigious Les Dames d'Escoffier Grande Dame Award that honors a lifetime of outstanding professional achievement, excellence, and charitable/community contributions within the culinary industry. She is the fourteenth recipient of this international honor.

The Austin Food and Wine Alliance hosts engaging culinary events throughout the year to raise funds for the organization's grant program, which is the nation's first grant program based on culinary innovation and community giveback. Since 2012, AFWA has awarded \$192,500 in grants to fund a variety of unique culinary endeavors.

AFWA is the designated beneficiary of the [Austin Food + Wine Festival](#), a three-day tribute to world-renowned chefs and winemakers held each spring.

For more information about the AFWA, visit [AustinFoodWineAlliance.org](http://AustinFoodWineAlliance.org), call 512.348.6847 or email [Info@AustinFoodWineAlliance.org](mailto: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 & 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](http://AustinFoodWineAlliance.org)

## **ABOUT LES DAMES D'ESCOFFIER AUSTIN CHAPTER**

Les Dames d'Escoffier International is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit international organization of women leaders who create a supportive culture in their communities to achieve excellence in the food, beverage, and hospitality professions. To do this, members provide leadership and educational opportunities and host philanthropic events within their communities. The Austin Les Dames chapter was founded in 2003 and has awarded over \$85,000 in scholarships. Members are committed to food-related community service. For more information, visit [LDEIAustin.org](http://LDEIAustin.org) or follow [Les Dames d'Escoffier Austin Chapter](#) on Facebook.