
Christie Pink
Director of Sales and Marketing
The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis
Tel: (314) 719-1410
Email: Christie.Pink@ritzcarlton.com

Bonnie Crail
Crail Communications
Tel: (951) 244-4524
Email: bcrail@crailcommunications.com

SAVE THE DATE: St. Louis and The Midwest's Finest Chefs to Cook, Meet and Mingle at August 29 Savor for Students Culinary Extravaganza

*Third Annual One-of-a-Kind Tasting Experience to Introduce Added VIP Table Option,
Donate All Profits to LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY*

ST. LOUIS, MO. – July 1, 2019 – Lovers of world-class cuisine have cause to celebrate this summer, as the **third annual Savor for Students** tasting extravaganza has been set for **Thursday, August 29 at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis**. Deliciously different from typical restaurant tastings, this non-profit culinary celebration will allow lucky foodies to interact personally with the region's top-rated chefs and culinary stars -- including recent James Beard Award-winners and nominees -- chatting with them personally while enjoying their cuisine. **The evening will raise urgently needed funds for Lift for Life Academy**, a St. Louis charter school serving urban youth.

Set for from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** on August 29, Savor for Students will feature tapas-style bites, sushi, sashimi, a raw bar, beer, wine, spirits and live music, all included in the **\$125 per person** ticket price (plus ticket processing fee). New for this year, Savor for Students will also offer a **limited number of VIP Experiences featuring a Reserved Table for ten guests**, with a designated server to attend each table. All ten guests at VIP tables will receive a custom apron signed by the evening's participating chefs. The VIP Experience is priced at \$2,500 per table of ten, plus processing fees. Individual as well as VIP Experience tickets are available now and may be purchased at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-savor-for-students-a-grand-tasting-event-tickets-62583344468?aff=erelexpmlt>. Ticketholders receive complimentary self-parking in The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis parking garage.

As for the event's chefs, a special invited participant this year will be Abe Conlon of Fat Rice in Chicago, IL. Chef Conlon won Chicago's only James Beard Award in 2018 and is acclaimed for his innovative Macanese cuisine – a fusion of ingredients and techniques from Portugal, India, Southeast Asia, Africa, China and other far reaches of the globe which the Portuguese traveled during the Age of Discovery.

The full list of chefs is as follows. James Beard Award-winning and nominated chefs/restaurants scheduled to appear are noted with an asterisk.

- Fat Rice - Abe Conlon*

- Vicia - Michael Gallina*
- Niche Food Group - Gerard Craft*
- Sidney Street Café and Peacemaker Lobster & Crab Co. – Kevin Nashan *
- Nathaniel Reid Bakery – Nathaniel Reid*
- Tempus - Ben Grupe*
- Bengelina Hospitality Group - Ben Poremba*
- Olive + Oak and The Clover & The Bee – Jesse Mendica*
- Mai Lee – Qui Tran
- Pappy's Smokehouse - Mike Emerson
- La Patisserie Chouquette – Simone Faure
- Seoul Taco - David Choi
- Lift For Life Academy - Kenny Hayden
- Balkan Treat Box - Loryn Feliciano-Nalic
- Nudo House STL - Marie-Anne Velasco
- MDP Restaurants - Michael Del Pietro
- The Ritz-Carlton, Orlando Grande Lakes – Jayshree Nathoo
- The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis – Jeanine Edmonds Mott
- The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis – Melissa Lee

As an option, ticketholders are invited to spend the night at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis and enjoy a relaxing stay following the event. A special event room rate is offered at \$159 USD plus tax for the night, based on availability. To reserve, please call 800-960-7056. The room rate includes overnight parking on August 29

Savor for Students was conceptualized by Melissa Lee, Executive Chef for The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis and a supporter of LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY. Her invitation to the chefs was simple: “Please help us to make a difference in the lives of children in St. Louis. With your support, we can ignite the passion in these young hearts, and encourage and inspire them to pursue their dreams.”

For further details, please call 314-719-1433. The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis is located at 100 Carondelet Plaza in Clayton/St. Louis.

About LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY

LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY, which opened in 2000 as the first independent charter school in the city of St. Louis, serves students in grades six through 12 from throughout the city. The Academy offers a private school atmosphere, while all programs and services are provided at no cost to students and their families. An important part of the LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY focus is nutrition. The school provides balanced, nutritious meals free of charge, five days a week, as part of its program. For hundreds of children, this is their only opportunity to get a meal each day. Additionally, LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY's community partners from Washington University Medical School have developed a healthy eating after-school program for sixth graders - whereby students have the opportunity to learn about My Plate, healthy recipes, portion control and reading food labels. LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY is located in the historic Soulard neighborhood at 1731 South Broadway and is supported by both state and federal funding and through fundraising. Current student enrollment is 580.