



Meet the Masters Wine Dinner to kick off three-day mixology festival



By **Amithisste Multerer-Zarda**. CREATED Feb 4, 2015

For The Love Of Cocktails, a three-day mixology event presented by BACK BAR USA, will kick off with Meet the Masters Wine Dinner.

The event will be hosted from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 at Aureole at Mandalay Bay.

Tickets are priced at \$250 per person and are available by [clicking here](#). Guests will also experience a special, rare and high-end surprise at the end of dinner.

The dinner will begin with a mixer with champagne and wine cocktails prepared by master mixologists Tony Abou-Ganim, Dale DeGross and Francesco Lafranconi, followed by a five-course meal wine pairing by Las Vegas' most distinguished sommeliers including Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino and Delano Las Vegas' Harley Carbery; Bellagio's Jason Smith, MS; Charlie Palmer's Steven Geddes, MS; and ARIA's Nick Hetzel, MS.

Abou-Ganim, DeGross and Lafranconi will greet guests with signature wine and champagne cocktails crafted using 2011 Chateau Ste. Michelle Riesling, Red Diamond Temperamental Red Blend and a Michelle Sparkling wine.

Following the cocktail hour, attendees will enjoy a five-course meal prepared by Aureole Executive Chef Vincent Pouessel. Selections include:

Fine Potato Galette of Fluke Sashimi and Bulgarian Osetra Caviar with a fennel polen cream.

Scottish Langoustines, lightly-seared, and served with a minute ratatouille basquaise and confit lemon.

House-Made Ricotta Cheese, Cavatelli Pasta and Confit Rabbit served with porcini mushrooms and perigord truffles.

Duo of Grilled Wagyu Rib Cap and Slow Braised Beef Cheek with garlic enoki, wilted greens, celeriac puree and truffles jus.

Orange Cream Semifreddo Flambé with a passion vanilla reduction and a honey toasted rice crisp; mignardises and handcrafted chocolates.

Each course will be paired with a wine from the Ste. Michelle Wine Estates portfolio, selected by Carbery, Smith, Geddes and Hetzel.

The dinner will mark the beginning of a nationwide Chateau Ste Michelle wine cocktail contest, open to participants throughout the nation.

Finalists will be flown back to Las Vegas to experience For The Love Of Cocktails in 2016