

WESTCHESTER MAGAZINE'S

# WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

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## Westchester Bartenders To Compete for Top Honors at Westchester Magazine's Wine & Food Festival

### *Bartender Shake-Off To Take Place at Inaugural Party on the Pier Event at Playland*

**RYE, NY (August 2021)** – What better way to celebrate the end of summer than with the ultimate party! Westchester Magazine's Wine & Food Festival will host the ultimate ***Party on the Pier & Bartender Shake-Off*** on **Wednesday, September 22 at Rye Playland Boardwalk from 6-9pm**. Guests at the festival's newest event will enjoy a fun-filled evening on the Playland boardwalk overlooking the beautiful Long Island Sound while enjoying samples of summer favorites from 13 local restaurants and five food trucks plus beer, wine, cocktails and live music!

The highlight of the night will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bartender Shake-Off, featuring Westchester's top mixologists competing for Best Bartender honors. The Bartender Shake-off will feature Westchester's top talents including:

- **EMILIO UGARTE**, RiverMarket Bar & Kitchen (*defending champion*)
- **EDUARDO ARIZMENDI**, Polpettina
- **JONATHAN CONDE**, X20 Xaviars on the Hudson
- **RONAN KERR**, Whiskey River
- **DOMINIQUE MAIETTA**, NoMa Social

Bartenders will be mixing cocktails using Tito's Vodka, one of the event sponsors, with the winner being crowned at the end of the night. Judges include **BRIDGET GIBBONS**, Westchester County Office of Economic Development; **BLAKE LEONARD**, Stew Leonard's Wines & Spirits of Yonkers; **JEANNE MUCHNICK**, Journal News; **LISA SALVADORINI**, News 12; **JOHN TURIANO**, Westchester Magazine. **KEVIN ZRALY**,

renowned author and wine educator and **KATE SCHLIENTZ**, food writer, restaurant advocate, radio host of Fork This with IntoxiKate, will serve as co-emcees for the event.

Tickets to the event are \$50 in advance and can be purchased at [westchestermagazine.com/winefood](https://westchestermagazine.com/winefood). The festival will require all attendees to be fully vaccinated and show the New York Excelsior Pass or vaccination card and ID prior to entry.

The Westchester Magazine Wine & Food Festival is a not-to-be missed experience recognizing the culinary spirit of Westchester County with 100+ top local restaurants and a selection of world-class wines. The one-week wine and food extravaganza will take place September 21-25 and serve as a salute to the finest food, exceptional spirits, and award-winning chefs from throughout the county.

**\*\*No one under 21 will be admitted. No Infants, Children, Strollers, or Pets allowed. \*\***

Each of the events will adhere to the current state and local guidelines, with the safety of each guest being a top priority.

Traditionally held each year in June, the festival was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. Organizers continued to support restaurants struggling during the pandemic by launching an awareness campaign that helped highlight local business owners throughout the year on their digital platforms.

Stew Leonard's Wines & Spirits of Yonkers, one of the region's largest purveyors of wine and spirits, will be the official wine and spirits retailer for the festival. Additional sponsors include Dark Horse Wine, Doc James Cigar Lounge, E&J Gallo, Enormous Creative, Gray Whale Gin, Josh Cellars Wine, Manhattan Beer, Mercedes-Benz of White Plains, Montefiore Medical Center, Oasis Day Spa, Pamal, Party Line Tent Rentals, Pepsico, Redemption Whiskey, Robison, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Westchester Community College, Westchester County Office of Economic Development, Westchester County Office of Tourism, MTA, Westchester County Parks.

Westchester Parks Foundation, which provides private support to preserve the County's Park system and improve the quality of life in our communities, is the official charity for the event.

Westchester Magazine's Wine & Food Festival draws more than 7,000 people from across the New York Metro area including New York City, Westchester County, Long Island, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

For additional information or to purchase tickets visit [westchestermagazine.com/winefood](https://westchestermagazine.com/winefood)



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