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**The 2013 WNC Chefs Challenge Narrows the Field of Contenders**

*The quarterfinals begin April 16 to name the “Best Chef in Western North Carolina”*

**March 18, 2013 (Asheville, NC)** – For the fourth year, the Asheville Wine & Food Festival hosts the WNC Chefs Challenge. The competition brings together 16 culinary leaders from the region in weekly battles built around a secret ingredient, and winners are determined based on votes cast by attendees and a panel of judges. It’s a chance to dine and decide who wins! The dinners are held every Tuesday at 6 p.m. through May 7 at Chestnut restaurant, located at 48 Biltmore Avenue in Asheville. The semifinals will follow this summer, leading up to finals at the Asheville Wine & Food Festival, which happens August 22-24.

To keep you up-to-date on the challenges, here’s a recap on who’s won so far:

- February 12: Chef Daniel Wright at Tomato Jam Café came out on top over Chef April Moon Harper at Sunny Point Café
- February 19: Chef Dan Moore at DoubleTree Catering beat Chef Edwin French at Pack’s Tavern
- February 26: Chef Mike Fisera at Lexington Avenue Brewery beat Chef Sean Fernandez at Ruth’s Chris Steak House
- March 12: Chef Steven Goff at Zambra beat Chef Jonathan Santiago at Biltmore Village Inn

Four challenges remain before the quarterfinals begin:

- March 19: Chef Cary Shackelford at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community vs. Chef Greg Kilpatrick at HomeGrown
- March 26: Chef Anthony Cerrato at Strada Italiano vs. Chef Stuart Jensen at Stuart’s on the Green
- April 2: Chef Graham Overal at The Blackbird vs. Chef Chuck Kegg of West Asheville Lounge & Kitchen (WALK)
- April 9: Chef Brian Ross at DOUGH vs.

## Chef Michael Marshall at Harrah's Cherokee Resort

The quarterfinals begin April 16:

- April 16: Chef Daniel Wright at Tomato Jam Café vs. Chef Dan Moore at DoubleTree Catering
- April 23: Chef Mike Fisera at Lexington Avenue Brewery vs. Chef Steven Goff at Zambra
- April 30: TBD
- May 7: TBD

Up-to-date information on the challenges, chef bios, photos, and blogs can be found at [www.ashevillewineandfood.com](http://www.ashevillewineandfood.com). You can also follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/avlwff](http://www.facebook.com/avlwff)) and Twitter (@AVLwinefest).

Tickets for the WNC Chefs Challenge are \$49 per person, and can be purchased online at [www.ashevillewineandfood.com](http://www.ashevillewineandfood.com) or by calling (828) 225-6944. Beverages, sales tax, and gratuity are not included. This year's benefiting organization is [Eliada](#), a nonprofit agency serving North Carolina's children and families.

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### **About the Festival**

*The Asheville Wine & Food Festival was established in 2009 out of a desire to celebrate and showcase area chefs, wineries, farmers, and food producers. Annual events touch on every facet of regional food and drink, including the WNC Chefs Challenge, Sweet, and the Grand Tasting. As a leader in the farm-to-table movement and home to the most visited winery in the country, Asheville was ranked among TripAdvisor's Travelers' Choice Awards for top 10 food and wine destinations in the United States in 2011. The city features more than 250 independent restaurants and 12 tailgate markets.*