

Tucson–Primavera Cooks!

Written by Written by Amy Strand

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Wednesday, May 20th marked the start of the 8th annual Primavera Cooks! fundraising series in collaboration with Tucson Originals restaurants. This summer-long event series offers up the chance for Tucsonans to dine out for a good cause, or even help prepare meals as an apprentice chef or an apprentice sommelier at some of Tucson's favorite restaurants. Even better? All of the proceeds from this fun-and-food-filled series of cooking and dining events goes toward the Primavera Foundation, a local nonprofit organization providing resources, education and outreach programs for the homelessness and poverty-stricken in southern Arizona.



The Primavera Cooks! culinary series appeals to both those who want to be in on the kitchen action as well as those who simply want to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Apprentice chefs donate \$250 (a tax-deductible sum that goes directly toward the Primavera Foundation) in order to help plan the meal in the preparation stages, while on the day of the event work with top Tucson chefs to assist in putting together the meals. As if the experience isn't reward enough, apprentice chefs receive an official chef's coat with an embroidered Primavera Cooks! logo as well as the host restaurant's logo.

In addition, the organization has added another position to their lineup for 2009: Apprentice sommelier. Apprentice sommeliers donate \$150 for their part, while having the opportunity to take wine classes and experience tastings as they are trained in the art of wine prior to the event, as well as help the restaurant and apprentice chefs prepare the event's wine pairing selections.



Rather just relax for a nice meal out for an incredible cause? Community members pay \$125 to enjoy a multi-course meal paired with fantastic wines, while their meal ticket goes directly toward the Primavera cause.

Curious to find out just which Primavera Cooks events fit into your schedule? Mark your calendars with the information listed below:

Monday, June 1: Feast

Wednesday, June 10: Dove Mountain Grill

Wednesday, July 22: Pastiche

Sunday, Aug. 2: Cup Café (Brunch)

Wednesday, Aug. 19: Acacia

Saturday, Aug. 29: JBar

Wednesday, Sept. 2: Maynard's Market

Sunday, Sept. 13: Kingfisher

Thursday, Sept. 17: Jonathan's

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About the organization: The Primavera Foundation was founded in 1982 by Gordon Packard and Nancy Bissell to help provide stability for Tucson's poor and homeless community. "Primavera sows the seeds of change by strengthening lives, building communities, and advocating for social justice," their Web site states. Since their start 27 years ago, the foundation has not only provided education and community outreach, but they have also found a way to provide housing programs for families or individuals who are ready to get back on their feet.

Last years Primavera Cooks! events netted \$130,000, and with its great line up, this year promises to be even better. To make a reservation or sign up to become an apprentice chef or an apprentice sommelier, contact David Elliot at 520.623.5111 x101 or email him at delliott@primavera.org. Find out more about the Primavera Foundation at www.primavera.org.