



THE MUSHROOM FESTIVAL, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fungi Philly Style

Celebrity Chefs Jose Garces and Kevin Spraga to appear at the 26th Annual Mushroom Festival

KENNETT SQUARE, PA-- Crimini, portabello, maitake, shiitake, or oyster? The only mystery surrounding the cooking demonstrations at the 26th Annual Mushroom Festival on September 10 and 11, 2011 is which type of mushroom will the chefs choose to use as part of their cooking demonstrations, including this year's celebrity chefs Jose Garces and Kevin Spraga, both from Philadelphia.

Jose Garces is just one of six American chefs to hold Food TV's title of "Iron Chef" after winning the network's second season of *The Next Iron Chef* in 2009. He will be in the Mushroom Festival's Special Events Tent on Saturday, September 10 for a 1:30 pm cooking demonstration and book signing. Garces is author of *Latin Evolution* and the 2008 winner of the James Beard "Best Mid-Atlantic Chef" award. He owns eight restaurants in Philadelphia and Chicago. Advance purchase tickets (includes an admission wristband to the Festival) for his appearance are on sale now at www.mushroomfestival.org.

Chef Kevin Spraga came to the forefront of television cooking as the winner of Bravo's *Top Chef DC* (Season 7). Other culinary accomplishments include Best Meat Presentation at the Bocuse d'Or USA in 2008, culinary director for Garces Restaurants and the executive chef at Rat's at the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton Township, NJ. Spraga is currently developing his own Philadelphia restaurant, "Sbraga", which is scheduled to open later this fall. Spraga will appear at the Mushroom Festival on Sunday, September 11 at 1:30 pm in the Culinary Tent (Broad and Cypress streets).

An outstanding group of creative chefs from the region round out the schedule of culinary demonstrations. It includes: Kristan McGuigan, executive chef of the Back Burner in Hockessin, Delaware, Steve Latona, instructor at The Restaurant School in Philadelphia, Cynthia Goch, owner of GochYa Cooking and author of *MaMa Mia Cucina ~ A Flavor of Good Food and Good Family*, and Barbara Maletsky of Chef Barbara Foods.

Details for times and locations are available on the Mushroom Festival's website: www.mushroomfestival.org, (click on The Festival tab, then Culinary Tent).

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Located in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, the Mushroom Festival is held the weekend after Labor Day each year. Attendance estimates are about 100,000 visitors over the two-day event.

The Mission of The Mushroom Festival, Inc. (a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation), is to promote the mushroom, educate consumers about the health benefits of mushrooms and to promote tourism in Southern Chester County, all while financially supporting local and regional charities through a grant process. The Festival awarded \$70,000 to local non-profits in 2011 from 2010 proceeds.

High Resolution jpgs are available on request