



## **FACT SHEET: American Institute of Wine and Food (AIWF)/NY Days of Taste®**

***Spoons Across America***® administers the national ***Days of Taste***® program annually in New York City.

***AIWF/NY Days of Taste***®\* is a discovery-based curriculum designed specifically for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students to learn about food and how it weaves its way through daily life from farm to table. The program teams up volunteer chefs, food professionals, farmers and teachers to guide elementary school children through a four-week curriculum conducted in October that highlights exploration of food and nutrition. It gives them the opportunity to discuss, savor and compare different taste sensations and flavor from locally grown foods, develop a food/nutrition vocabulary, learn the joys of healthy eating, as well as hands-on experience preparing food, an optional visit to a Greenmarket, preparation of a harvest salad, and a trip to the chef's restaurant for a behind-the-scenes tour and lunch.

Participating New York chefs include: Bill Telepan, *Telepan*; Joseph Pagano, *Cibo*; Nancy Olson, *Gramercy Tavern*; Alexandra Guarnaschelli, *Butter*; Anthony Arbeeny, *Grand Hyatt New York*; Feliberto Estevéz, *Gracie Mansion*; Josh Grinker, *Stone Park Café (Brooklyn)*.

***AIWF/NY Days of Taste*** reaches over **85** public school classrooms and more than **2,000** ethnically diverse children **in four-boroughs including Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island and Queens** every fall. Throughout the four-week program children participate in a number of exercises that integrate science, reading and listening skills, and team-building.

### ***Highlights of Days of Taste:***

#### ***•Exploring the ABCs of Taste***

Students participate in activities that build a food and nutrition vocabulary and help develop "taste memories" by exploring the nuances of taste through the five senses.

#### ***•Visiting a Greenmarket/A Visit with a Farmer***

Students are introduced to the wealth and variety of produce that is locally grown by meeting with a farmer, -either in the classroom or at a market. The farmer shares samples of freshly-picked produce and discusses growing cycles and the importance of eating foods in their season.

#### ***•Preparing a Harvest Salad***

Students prepare a harvest salad in the classroom using fresh, local ingredients. Children sit down together to eat and talk about their salads, while experiencing the social interaction of dining.

#### ***•Visiting the Chef's Restaurant***

Students explore the chef's restaurant via a behind-the-scenes tour, along with lunch. Children learn what it takes to run a restaurant and the variety of culinary careers that exist.



***Spoons Across America® (SAA)***- the source for children's culinary education- is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating children, teachers, and families about the benefits of healthy eating. We work to influence the eating habits of children through hands-on education that celebrates the connection to local farmers and the important tradition of sharing meals around the family table.

SAA produces the **AIWF Days of Taste®** for the New York Chapter in collaboration with The James Beard Foundation, NYC College of Technology/Hospitality Management, Art Institute of NYC, The French Culinary Institute, The Institute of Culinary Education, New York University, Greenmarket-NYC Council on the Environment, NY Women's Culinary Alliance, Slow Food NY and Just Food. For more information about Spoons Across America, please visit [www.spoonsacrossamerica.org](http://www.spoonsacrossamerica.org).

The Days of Taste® trademarks and copyrights are the sole and exclusive property of The American Institute of Wine & Food (AIWF). Days of Taste® is a national program of The AIWF implemented throughout America by a majority of its 25 chapters in cities throughout the USA. The AIWF New York Chapter has engaged Spoons Across America® to implement the AIWF Days of Taste® program in the New York area solely on behalf of the AIWF New York Chapter. To learn more about the AIWF Days of Taste® program in your area, please contact The American Institute of Wine & Food national office at (800) 274-2493 or visit [www.aiwf.org](http://www.aiwf.org). If you're interested in the AIWF New York Chapter Days of Taste® program, please contact the AIWF New York Chapter at 718-522-6688.

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