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**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

**ATLANTA'S BEST BEVERAGE BUFFS FACE OFF IN SOMMELIER SHOWDOWN**

*Taste of Atlanta Hosts Best Sommelier Competition Finals on October 20*

**ATLANTA (October 14, 2011)** – On October 22-23, **Taste of Atlanta** celebrates a decade of bringing together the best in food, drink and fun. New this year, the festival raises a glass to the city's celebrated sommeliers with its first-ever **Best Sommelier Competition** at **Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse**. Oenophiles can catch the showdown action at the competition finals on **October 20**.

To satisfy savvy spectators, vino virtuosos showcase their talent for hosts **Master Sommelier Michael McNeil** and **Certified Wine Educator Eric Crane**. The event is emceed by **Gil Kulers**, certified wine educator and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* contributing writer.

In addition to bragging rights as Atlanta's best sommelier, the winning enology expert receives an etched Riedel decanter.

**WHO:** **Wine lovers and face-off aficionados across Atlanta**  
From the connoisseur crowd to the competition-hungry horde, the sommelier showdown offers something for everyone.

**Qualified sommeliers, wine stewards and beverage managers**  
Eligible participants must have three years of experience in the beverage industry, with at least two years of experience in beverage service.

*Hosts:* **Michael McNeil**, MS and **Eric Crane**, AS, CWE  
*Emcee:* **Gil Kulers**, CWE and AJC writer

**WHAT:** **Taste of Atlanta's Best Sommelier Competition**  
Sponsored by Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles magazine

**WHEN:** **Thursday, October 20**  
**Doors open 6:30 p.m.; competition begins 7:00 p.m.**  
Atlanta's top sommeliers showcase their skills at the final competition in four sections: food-wine pairing, service skills, wine IQ and wine identification.

**WHERE:** **Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse**  
3500 Peachtree Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30326

**COST:** **Tickets are available to the first 100 guests for \$20 at the door.**

For more information on **Taste of Atlanta's Best Sommelier Competition**, visit [www.tasteofatlanta.com](http://www.tasteofatlanta.com).

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