



For Immediate Release
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Competition Heats Up At This Year's State Fair Green Chile Cheeseburger Challenge

The 2019 New Mexico State Fair Green Chile Cheeseburger Challenge will take place September 9 inside the courtyard of the Agriculture Building. This annual signature event at the State Fair, in partnership with New Mexico Department of Agriculture, will be elevating the competition to the next level by recruiting some of New Mexico's top chefs as celebrity judges.

The annual competition consists of 10 restaurants cooking up their best burger recipes, topped with authentic New Mexico chile, for a double-blind panel of 8 judges. Each green chile cheeseburger will be divided among the judges for a taste test, and scores are based on the quality of the burger patty, the presentation and the excellence of the chile. New Mexico State Fair organizers secured local Food Network challenge winners, upping the level of competition for the Green Chile Cheeseburger Challenge. Those local chefs are as follows:

- Chef Fernando Ruiz – Chama Land & Cattle Company
 - Only chef in the US to have won Chopped, Guy's Grocery Games and defeated Bobby Flay in an episode earlier this year.
- Marie Yniguez – Albuquerque's "Sister of the Sandwich"
 - Also captured a win at Guy's Grocery Games earlier this year.
- Chef Renee Fox – Loyal Hound and Arable
 - Has been featured on multiple Food Network shows including Guy Fieri's Diners, Drive-in and Dives.
- Chef Rocky Durham – Sunrise Springs
 - New Mexico Department of Agriculture "Chef Ambassador."

There is also the highly popular People's Choice award which provides the general public an opportunity to participate in the sampling and vote for their favorite. Only 125 ballots will be available for this event, so it pays to come early on Monday to get your spot in line for the ultimate battle of the burger.

"The New Mexico State Fair is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our local restaurant industry by showcasing our iconic local cuisine," said NMSF General manager Dan Mourning. "We are excited to welcome this fan-favorite event back to the fair this year, and look forward to seeing burgers that are better than ever!"

The list of competitors for this year's event is as follows:

Dairy Bar – Red River,

Fuddruckers – Albuquerque,

Sparky's Burgers – Hatch *2017 Champion

Isleta Resort & Casino – Isleta

High Point Grill – Albuquerque

Village Café – Los Lunas

Grassburger – Albuquerque

Oso Grill – Capitan *2018 Champion

Oak Tree Café – Albuquerque

Laguna Burger – Laguna *2016 Champion

For more information about the 2019 New Mexico State Fair, visit us at exponm.com.

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