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TRAVERSE CITY FOOD & WINE ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL CHEFS AND EVENTS

Andrew Zimmern, Anna Ansari Join the Lineup with Additional Culinary Experiences

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Award-winning chefs Andrew Zimmern and Anna Ansari have joined the roster of guest chefs during the second annual Traverse City Food & Wine, presented by 4Front Credit Union. Traverse City Tourism announced the additions today, along with new events for this year's five-day exhibition of the culinary and beverage scene in northern Michigan.

Traverse City Food & Wine will take place at multiple venues from August 19th through the 23rd. Guests are invited to come to Traverse City to savor the region's finest produce, agricultural products, and remarkable flavors crafted by award-winning chefs – all set against the stunning backdrop of West Grand Traverse Bay in the peak moments of summer. Event and ticket information is available at TraverseCityFoodAndWine.com.

Four-time James Beard Award Winner, Emmy-winning creator and food television host Andrew Zimmern will appear with stories of his culinary travels and the impact of food in bridging social and cultural divides. His acclaimed shows include "Bizarre Foods," "The Zimmern List," and "What's Eating America." As a Global Goodwill Ambassador for the UN World Food Programme and The Nature Conservancy, he has worked to fight world hunger and promote social understanding through food. Zimmern will host an exclusive Evening at Black Star Farms with a nostalgic, interactive dinner and will appear at The Grand Tasting on Saturday, August 22.

Anna Ansari is a cookbook author and home chef who showcases her world travels in the pages of her highly acclaimed new cookbook. “Silk Roads: A Flavor Odyssey from Baku to Beijing” was shortlisted for both the 2026 Fortnum & Mason Debut Cookery Book Award and the 2026 Guild of Food Writers Debut Book Award. Ansari has appeared on CBS Sunday Morning’s “The Dish,” “The Splendid Table” with Francis Lam, and “This is TASTE.”

The 2025 Traverse City Food & Wine featured more than 80 events, most of which were sold out. New additions to this year’s schedule include:

- An Evening with Chef Andrew Zimmern at Black Star Farms – Saturday, August 22
- Afrim Pristine’s Estate Cooking Demo and Dinner at Black Star Farms – Wednesday, August 19
- The Four Seasons: A Traverse City Wine Journey – Wednesday, August 19
- Old World, New World Wine Dinner at Chateau Grand Traverse - Saturday, August 22
- Cheese & Wine Masterclass with Maître Fromager Afrim Pristine- Thursday, August 20
- Fire, Water, Earth & Air: An Elemental Wine & Food Pairing – Friday, August 21
- Scavenger Hunt at French Valley Vineyards (Kid-Friendly) – Thurs and Fri, August 20 & 21
- Beer vs. Wine Showdown - Friday, August 21
- Pixnos and Pours Experience – A Multi-Vineyard Tasting Experience – Wednesday and Thursday, Aug 19 & 20
- The Art of Riesling Tour and Barrel Room Tasting - multiple dates
- Old World, New World Wine Dinner - Saturday, August 22

A few of the premier events in the 2026 schedule include:

- James Beard Foundation Dinner — Wednesday, August 19: The festival’s opening night features an elegant al fresco dinner celebrating culinary excellence, with nine Michigan James Beard finalists teaming up to craft the wine-paired affair benefiting the James Beard Foundation.
- Ruth Reichl - A National Writers Series Conversation — Thursday, August 20: Celebrated food writer and critic Ruth Reichl (*Gourmet*, *New York Times*) talks about her career, her passion for food, and her latest fiction in an unscripted culinary conversation.
- The Grand Tasting — Saturday, August 22: An afternoon event that includes chef demonstrations, dozens of culinary samples from local and guest chefs, and more than 100 locally made beers, wines, and spirits, returns as the festival's signature centerpiece at the Traverse City Open Space. The Grand Tasting includes a fully redesigned VIP area with several award-winning local chefs and a curated beverage selection.
- Bubbles by the Bay — Thursday, August 20: Toast the sunset over the bay with some of northern Michigan's finest wines crafted in the *Méthode Champenoise,* paired with music, small bites and decadent desserts.

Additional events will be added to the schedule in the coming weeks on Monday mornings at 9 am. Follow social media and the website for additional announcements and ticket offerings as they become available.

Traverse City Food & Wine is presented by 4Front Credit Union and organized by Traverse City Tourism.