

THE COASTAL

# NORTH COUNTY TIMES

## Best Bet: Mama's Day allows foodies to dine and donate

By PAM KRAGEN - pkragen@nctimes.com | Posted: May 2, 2010 12:00 am |



Chef Bernard Guillas of The Marine Room serving up a blue crab salad at the 2009 Mama's Day fundraiser in La Jolla. This year's fundraiser is May 7. (Courtesy photo)

LA JOLLA ---- How much would you pay for dinner and wine at one of San Diego's top fine-dining restaurants? What about if you could eat at 72 of the best establishments in one night?

That's the lure of Mama's Day, the gourmet tasting event taking place Friday evening at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla Aventine. Known as one of the county's favorite foodie events, Mama's Day brings together chefs from Addison, Oceanaire, Kitchen 1540, The Marine Room, Bice, Fleming's, Truluck's, Roppongi, Whisknadle and many other top restaurants to raise money for Mama's Kitchen.

Founded in 1990, Mama's Kitchen was launched when volunteers from the AIDS Assistance Fund, a food bank for people with AIDS, discovered that many clients were becoming too ill to care for themselves and could use a reliable home delivery service for meals. About six years ago, Mama's Kitchen also began delivering meals to people with other critical illnesses.

Mama's Kitchen has more than 650 active volunteers and 30 delivery routes throughout the county. The Mama's Day event is the organization's largest annual fundraiser, raising \$175,000 to \$185,000 each year.

Besides the food stations, there will be no-host bars, entertainment, a silent auction and prize drawings. The event draws from 500 to 600 people each year.

"It's known as an event where everybody has a great time," said spokesman Michael Guzzo. "It's a fabulous social scene and a foodie scene, but it's not pretentious. Anybody can come and have fun. The goal is to eat at all 72 food stations."

Guzzo said this year's event will feature many new restaurant participants, including Acqua al 2, Toast, Bice, Indigo Grill, Island Prime and C Level.

Mama's Day will take place from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. may 7 at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla, 3777 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. Tickets are \$125 in advance or \$150 at the door. Order by calling 619- 233-6262 or visit [mamaskitchen.org](http://mamaskitchen.org).

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