



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **To participate, do I have to compete?**

No, you do not have to compete in either the People's Choice or Pinnacle Awards to participate in the Chef Open. You would be required to provide samples to the guests.

### **Do I have to participate to compete?**

Yes, to compete you must participate in the **So-Cal Chef Open**, which requires you to provide samples to the guests.

### **What is the criteria for competing?**

The **People's Choice Award** is based on the number of votes received from the people attending.

The **Pinnacle Award** is determined by a Judging Panel comprised of professional Chefs and those respected in the industry. The score is based on presentation, creativity, use of local ingredients, texture, balance and flavor.

### **Do I have to attend Media Night?**

No, but it is highly encouraged. Media Night is an opportunity for Chefs to meet other competitors. It is also a chance for the media and high-level sponsors to meet the Chefs and get a sense of what the Chef Open will consist of this year. **Committing before Media Night and attending gives you the greatest coverage for participating in the Chef Open.**

### **Do we provide a different dish to the Judges as we do the Patrons?**

No. You will serve the same "bite" to the Judges as you do the guests attending. You will be judged on the same dish by both.