



**CONTACTS:**  
Sara Hisamoto  
Visit Baltimore  
410-659-7071

Aubrey Westgate  
Downtown Partnership  
410-528-7718

**BALTIMORE SUMMER RESTAURANT WEEK**  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 – SUNDAY, AUGUST 22**

*Restaurant Week Kickoff Event August 12*

(Baltimore, MD) – The fifth annual Baltimore Summer Restaurant Week will run Friday, August 13 – Sunday, August 22. Can't wait that long? No problem. Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, Visit Baltimore, Harborplace and The Gallery, and some of Baltimore's most popular restaurants, are serving up the first course of dining specials on Thursday, August 12 to provide a sneak peek at what's to come.

That's right, the day before Summer Restaurant Week begins, the public will get to taste-test some of the best food in town. It's the restaurant week kickoff event, "The First Course - Appetizer Challenge," in which restaurants will duke it out to determine who creates the tastiest appetizers around.

Judged by the public and a panel of celebrity judges, the competition will be held Thursday, August 12 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Inner Harbor Amphitheater. Free samples of the appetizers will be handed out (while supplies last) so that the public can make their call on the best appetizer and select the People's Choice winner. Awards will also be presented based on judges choice, and best use of locally sourced ingredients.

The following day the delicious dining sponsored by Downtown Partnership and Visit Baltimore begins – Baltimore Summer Restaurant Week.

Throughout the 10-day event, August 13 through August 22, guests will literally dine their way through Downtown Baltimore exploring the fresh tastes of Baltimore's neighborhoods including Little Italy, Mount Vernon, Fell's Point, Federal Hill, Harbor East, and Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Participating establishments will offer special three-course dinner prix fixe menus for \$35.10 (liquor, tax and gratuity not included). Many will also offer three-course lunch prix fixe menus for \$20.10 per person (liquor, tax and gratuity not included). Select restaurants are also offering additional value-added opportunities including wine flights and wine pairings to accompany the prix fixe meals.

"Great cities have great events that bring people together and foster a sense of community," said Downtown Partnership of Baltimore President Kirby Fowler. "Baltimore Summer Restaurant Week is a wonderful example of that type of event. It brings people together in support of our outstanding restaurants, our locally grown foods, and our wonderful Downtown."

For every restaurant that participates in Baltimore Summer Restaurant Week, Visit Baltimore and Downtown Partnership will donate \$50 to The Journey Home, an agency that provides services to assist the homeless in finding permanent and supportive homes. Diners will find donation boxes at participating restaurants and are encouraged to make a donation following their dining experience.

“Restaurant Week allows us to share Baltimore’s culinary gems with visitors and locals alike,” said Tom Noonan, Visit Baltimore president and CEO. “Summer Restaurant Week allows diners to enjoy Baltimore’s culinary scene at a great value while we showcase some of Baltimore’s best restaurants and little known popular spots.”

A complete list of participating restaurants, menus for most of the participating restaurants, information on discounted downtown parking and a map of restaurant locations can be found online at [www.BaltimoreRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.BaltimoreRestaurantWeek.com).

Diners are urged to make reservations early because the most popular restaurants fill up quickly.

*Visit Baltimore is the official sales and marketing organization for Baltimore that generates economic benefits for stakeholders through the attraction of convention, group and leisure visitors. For more information, please visit [www.baltimore.org](http://www.baltimore.org).*

*Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit corporation working with the public and private sectors to make Downtown Baltimore a great place for businesses, employees, residents, and visitors. The Partnership's policies and programs have led to a cleaner & safer Downtown, to an increase in housing and retail opportunities, to the retention of key employers, to the development of solutions to transportation challenges, and to increased public and private investments in the area. Visit [www.GoDowntownBaltimore.com](http://www.GoDowntownBaltimore.com) for more information.*

###

