

MEDIA RELEASE

Chef Norman Van Aken to Host a Gala Dinner at NORMAN'S Orlando to Celebrate Chef Jacques Pépin

NORMAN'S Orlando to Hold a Gala Dinner in Support of the Nationwide 90/90 Celebration for the Legendary Chef

ORLANDO, Florida (January 8, 2025) – NORMAN'S Orlando restaurant founder and “Florida’s Culinary Icon”, Norman Van Aken, is hosting a celebration to honor Chef Jacques Pépin’s 90th birthday! The Gala 5-course dinner will be held on Friday, February 28, 2025, and presented by Chef Van Aken, the NORMAN'S culinary team, and featuring a group of talented Orlando chefs, each creating and presenting various courses and hors d’oeuvres from the 5-course wine-paired dinner menu or VIP Meet and Greet Cocktail Reception.

Chef Van Aken remarked that “It is rare to get to meet one of your heroes. Remarkable indeed to have cooked for him, and his lovely family personally, and cooked with him too! Rarer still when we, (for there will be multitudes) can thank the Chef for the countless lessons he has provided, with a night like the one we are going to have in his honor. From the first time I studied his magnum opus, “La Technique” in the long-ago Key West line cook days, to the here and now; Chef Jacques Pépin is in the pantheon of greats to share his love of cooking to millions and continues to do so. *Santé!*”

Tickets for the 90/90 Gala celebration 5-course dinner are now available [online](#), along with a limited number of VIP Meet and Greet Cocktail Reception tickets, sold as an add-on to the 5-course dinner. Complimentary Valet service along with ample free parking, are available at the 7924 Via Dellagio Way, Orlando, FL restaurant location. You can get more information about the event celebration, and our chef bios, by visiting the Celebrate Jacques event page found [here](#).

ABOUT NORMAN'S ORLANDO

NORMAN'S Orlando is an award-winning fine dining restaurant located on “restaurant row” right off Sand Lake Road, in the Dellagio Town Center in Orlando. Chef Norman Van Aken is the culinary visionary behind the success of the restaurant, which offers seasonally driven menus and cocktails in their main dining room, private dining spaces, alfresco Terrace, and Bar Lounge area.

ABOUT CHEF NORMAN VAN AKEN

Norman Van Aken, also known as “The Founding Father of New World Cuisine,” is the chef and founder of NORMAN'S Orlando. His original namesake restaurant NORMAN'S, (in Coral Gables), was a finalist for “Outstanding Restaurant in America” and the only one thus far in the entire state. He founded the second iteration of NORMAN'S at the Ritz-Carlton in Orlando in 2003, a semi-finalist for “Outstanding Restaurant in America” in 2019. In 2023 he and his partners moved his namesake restaurant to the Dr. Phillips area of Orlando into a more modern space within the Dellagio Town Center. March 20th will mark the 30th anniversary of the NORMAN's restaurant brand.

For more information and to keep up on Chef Van Aken, please visit his website: [NormanVanAken](#)

ABOUT JACQUES PEPIN FOUNDATION

The JPF advances Jacques Pépin's love of culinary arts and education and supports the teaching of culinary skills through various channels to many communities. The JPF supports community-based kitchens that offer culinary training to adults with high barriers to employment, including those impacted by the justice system, those experiencing homelessness, individuals in recovery, or those that have been underserved.

To learn more about the JPF, please visit their website below: JP Foundation

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