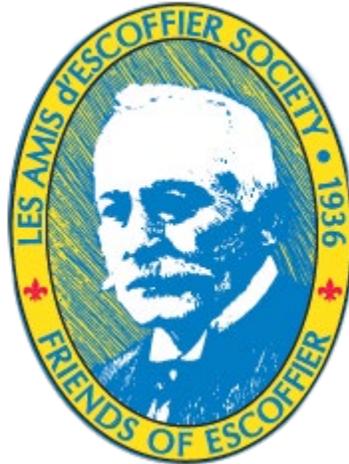


# Les Amis d'Escoffier Society of New York, Inc.



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2022

New York, New York - The Les Amis d'Escoffier Society of New York is proud to announce that it will host their **84<sup>th</sup> Fall Dinner on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. We will honor two industry giants at this **annual dîner d'automne** to be held at the **Park Lane New York, at Central Park South in New York City**. Those are two very distinguished individuals namely **Michael Mina, as Chef of the Year, and Eric Pfeil, as Purveyor of the Year**. The honorees are being recognized as trendsetters and supporters in the hospitality industry.

The Les Amis d'Escoffier Society of New York was formed in 1936 by a group of epicures, many of whom were former pupils of Auguste Escoffier. Since the first gathering at The Waldorf Astoria hotel, the Society has grown to become the nation's foremost fraternity of dedicated gastronomes. Membership consists of chefs de cuisine, hospitality executives, restaurateurs, and business executives. The Society is a highly respected institution in the culinary world and gathers monthly for epicurean events and education. Most importantly through our scholarship program the Les Amis d'Escoffier Society is proud to support young students pursuing a career in our industry, those young people are our future.

The 2022 annual dinner honorees embrace the standards of excellence in cuisine and service established by Auguste Escoffier. The Les Amis d'Escoffier Society of

New York is proud to honor these two outstanding professionals for their achievements, support, and contributions to the industry.

## **Michael Mina**

Michael Mina's story is one of over three decades of influence, passion, and achievement. With accolades including James Beard Foundation "Who's Who of Food & Beverage," Gayot Restaurateur of the Year, Bon Appétit Chef of the Year, as well as the International Food and Beverage Forum's Restaurateur of the Year, Michelin-starred Chef Mina continues to dazzle the culinary world with bold dining concepts that have contributed to San Francisco's reputation as a world-class epicurean destination and made him an integral part of the dining scene across the country and beyond.

Born in Cairo, Egypt and raised in Ellensburg, Washington, Chef Mina has had a love affair with the kitchen since a very early age – creating memorable dining experiences for family, friends, and guests alike. His epicurean journey began in 1987 at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, during which he supplemented his formal schooling with hands-on experience in Charlie Palmer's kitchen at the famed Aureole in New York City. After graduation, Chef Mina was presented with the opportunity of a lifetime with Chef George Morrone, then-Executive Chef of the Bel Air Hotel in Los Angeles. The two were asked to develop a concept and create a menu for an upscale seafood restaurant in San Francisco – from there, AQUA was born. Though Chef Mina was welcomed to San Francisco by a major earthquake on his second day in the city, he was unfazed and went to work immediately, dedicating himself to creating a dining experience that quickly became one of the pillars of the Bay Area restaurant community.

In 2002, Chef Mina's culinary and business vision led to the founding of his restaurant management company, MINA Group, with partner Andre Agassi. Under the auspices of MINA Group, he has opened over forty virtual brands and award-winning brick-and-mortar outlets across the U.S. and Dubai. For a complete list of restaurants and more information, please visit [michaelmina.net](http://michaelmina.net) and follow Chef Michael Mina on Facebook and Instagram at @ChefMichaelMina.

## **Eric Pfeil**

Eric Pfeil, President and CEO of Empire Merchants and Empire Merchants North. His responsibilities include overseeing all Sales, Finance, Operations, Human Resources, and eCommerce. Eric started in this role in April of 2020.

Prior to moving to New York, Eric was the Executive Vice President of Breakthru Beverage of Florida for the past 10 years. During his 17-year tenure in Florida, first at Premier Beverage, which is now Breakthru Beverage, Eric held multiple leadership positions, including General Sales Manager for south Florida, and Vice President of Sales and Executive Vice President. Eric was heavily involved in a number of charities while in Florida, being the Chairman of the Miami Dolphins Cancer Challenge and where he still sits on the board, a committee member for the Jason Taylor Reading Room Foundation and involved with several local charities including the Miami Children's Foundation and the YMCA of Broward County.

Eric's career in the wine and spirits industry spans over 35 years including prior sales roles both domestically and internationally for E & J Gallo, as well as tenure with Glazers, Grantham Distributing, Johnson Brothers and Republic Beverage.

Eric is a graduate of the University of Michigan, with a degree in Business Economics.

The Les Amis d'Escoffier Society of New York is proud to honor such acclaimed individuals on October 27, 2022, at Park Lane New York, Central Park South in New York City. With this event, our aim is to continue with our mission in raising money for our Scholarship Program.

**For more information contact: [escoffiersocietyny@gmail.com](mailto:escoffiersocietyny@gmail.com)  
or visit us at [www.escoffier-society.com](http://www.escoffier-society.com)**