



FIELD REPORTS

Big Weekend: New York City Wine And Food Festival 2012

For a weekend, the food stars align in NYC

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BY FOOD REPUBLIC



David Bouley Alumni Dinner

A mobile phone rings, interrupting David Bouley's opening remarks for the megawatt Bouley Alumni dinner, a family reunion held Thursday at the Bouley Test Kitchen that brought together some of New York's most accomplished culinary talents (Dan Barber, Anita Lo, Galen Zamarra, Kerry Heffernan, to name a few). "It was my kitchen calling," says Bouley after placing his own phone on mute. It was a reminder

that David Bouley still operates — and is very much involved in — one of New York's best, the eponymous restaurant located a few blocks from where we were gathering. "This is just like the old days," says Lo later while helping prep Saul Bolton's duck consommé with a bobbing slice of Hudson Valley foie gras with pineapple quince and freshly rolled prune tortellini. She had come to Bouley in 1988, America's first celebrity chef-steered restaurant, first to make canapés before graduation to garde manger.

Each of the nine chefs that participated had a story, told to the crowd of Bouley regulars and VIPs well past midnight after Blue Hill pastry chef Alexander Grunert had served his warm huckleberry crepe with Austrian topfen ice cream. Barber told a story about a pair of unruly French guests. Dan Silverman about Bouley's inability (or maybe unwillingness) to learn the names of staff. Zamarra about a tasting event he helped cater on the west coast where he had to fill his hotel bathroom with sugar snap peas. Bouley closed the evening with a Champagne toast, looking fresh and fit and ready to take a phone call from his kitchen that would undoubtedly arrive at any time. — Matt Rodbard