



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:  
Jill Golden  
Marketing & Communications Director  
[jill@sonomafilmfest.org](mailto:jill@sonomafilmfest.org)  
510.851.2374

### **SONOMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (SIFF) ANNOUNCES JOANNE WEIR'S PLATES & PLACES LUNCH MARCH 25**

**Noted Chef, Television Host, Author, and Culinary Tour Leader  
Headlines New Culinary Lunch at SIFF's 25th Anniversary Festival March 23-27, 2022**

Sonoma, CA January 19, 2022—Sonoma International Film Festival (SIFF), noted for delivering the best in film, food, wine and fun, is including a new culinary headliner event to this year's festival.

Joanne Weir, the James Beard Award winning chef, will showcase "Joanne Weir's Plates & Places" lunch, presented by Northern California Public Media, on Friday, March 25. This new event features Weir introducing select segments from her award-winning television series, paired with a three-course meal she has curated representing those places. The event is also sponsored by *Marin Magazine* and MacArthur Place.

"We are thrilled to have Chef Weir bring her sizeable culinary talents to our 25th festival with our first ever lunch event," said Kevin W. McNeely, SIFF Artistic Director. "Her engaging personality, epicurean talents and food travelogue series resonates with our foodie film loving audience."

Weir is a James Beard Award-winning cookbook author, international cooking teacher and renowned chef. Her PBS show, *Joanne Weir's Plates & Places*, is a cinematic new series filmed on location throughout some of her favorite culinary destinations.

"Filmmakers open our eyes to worlds beyond any borders," said Chef Joanne Weir. "Their films can inspire curiosity and conversation-- not unlike a delicious meal-- and it's an honor to be part of this incredible festival with my Plates & Places lunch."

Limited capacity tickets are now on sale at [Joanne Weir's Plates & Places Lunch at SIFF](https://2022siff.eventive.org/schedule/61d4eca5c0b34a0095ba94df) (<https://2022siff.eventive.org/schedule/61d4eca5c0b34a0095ba94df>).

All SIFF Silver Patron Passes include this new culinary event. SIFF Silver Soiree and Cinema Passholders will have the opportunity to purchase a ticket at a discounted price.

#### **About Sonoma International Film Festival**

The Sonoma International Film Festival is a 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to promoting independent film, supporting filmmakers around the world, and inspiring film lovers. Blending a program of international film, food, wine and fun, SIFF hosts its annual festival each March, as well as year-round live and virtual events including SIFF Summerfest live, and SIFF Saturdays, monthly virtual films screened on the last Saturday of every month.

SIFF's signature initiative--the Media Arts Program started at Sonoma Valley High School in 2002--introduces students to the process of storytelling and provides the resources for them to create films. SIFF has granted more than \$725,000 to the program since its inception.

### **About Chef Joanne Weir**

Joanne Weir is an American chef, cookbook author, and international cooking instructor. She is also a writer and producer, known for TV shows such as *Joanne Weir's Cooking Confidence* and *Joanne Weir's Plates & Places*.

She began her career working at Alice Waters' Chez Panisse in Berkeley before moving to food travel tours and opening Sausalito's *Copita Tequileria Y Comida* restaurant. She has penned 20 cookbooks.

For more information visit: [www.joanneweir.com](http://www.joanneweir.com).

**Sonoma International Film Festival celebrates 25 years March 23-27, 2022.** Passes are on sale now at [sonomafilmfest.org](http://sonomafilmfest.org).

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103 EAST NAPA STREET | SONOMA, CA 95476 | SONOMAFILMFEST.ORG | TAX ID 68-0428999