



**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 RECIPIENT OF THE 2023 SIFF CULINARY EXCELLENCE AWARD  
2022 James Beard Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award Winner  
Chef Martin Yan to Accept the Award at SIFF Chefs & Shorts Dinner on March 24, 2023**

Sonoma, CA January 20, 2023—Sonoma International Film Festival (SIFF), noted for delivering the best in film, food, wine, and fun during its annual festival, will honor internationally acclaimed Chef Martin Yan with its SIFF Culinary Excellence Award during the Sonoma International Film Festival on Thursday, March 24, 2023. Yan becomes the second chef to be honored by SIFF. Chef Jacques Pépin was the inaugural recipient in 2022.

“We’re excited Chef Yan is joining us for our Chef and Shorts event, and he’ll actually be cooking, which doubles the excitement,” said SIFF Artistic Director Carl Spence. “It’s wonderful to honor this world-class chef along with world-class cinema, so it’s a great pairing.”

Yan is the recipient of the 2022 James Beard Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award. He has hosted more than 3,500 cooking shows around the world and is an accomplished chef, a restaurateur, a respected culinary educator, a commentator, and a food and hospitality consultant. His award-winning PBS series “Yan Can Cook”, airing since 1978, has introduced generations of North American audiences to Chinese and Asian cuisines. He has authored more than 30 culinary books and has made guest appearances on “Iron Chef,” “Top Chef,” “Master Chef,” “Hell’s Kitchen,” and “Check, Please!”, among others.

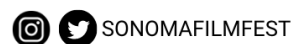
Yan will prepare a course during the event which will also showcase other esteemed chefs, top wines, and a curated selection of culinary cinema to be named in the coming weeks. The dinner is a collaboration with Devour! The Food Film Festival and Chef Michael Howell and Co-Director Lia Rinaldo.

Limited capacity tickets are now on sale at [SIFF Honors Chef Martin Yan](#). It is included as a benefit to 2023 SIFF Patron Passholders. The event is sponsored, in part, by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, San Francisco; and Merrill Lynch.

The 26th annual Sonoma International Film Festival is March 22-26, 2023. The complete film schedule and special events will be announced in the coming weeks. Discount festival passes are on sale now through January 31 at [sonomafilmfest.org](http://sonomafilmfest.org).

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**26TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL MARCH 22-26, 2023**



103 East Napa Street | Suite 2A | Sonoma, California 95476 | 707.933.2600

Sonoma Valley Film Society dba Sonoma International Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax ID: 68-0428999.



### **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 and year-round events such as SIFF Summerfest and special screenings.

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.

SIFF's Sustaining Sponsors are Delta Air Lines, Manitou Fund, and Shiftboard. Presenting Sponsors of the 26th annual festival include Cogir Senior Living, among others to be announced in the coming weeks.

### **About Devour! The Food Film Fest**

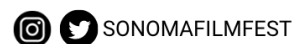
Devour! The Food Film Fest is a transformative food and film experience combining cinematic excellence with extraordinary gastronomic activities. The annual festival — the largest food film festival in the world — typically hosts 100+ events, celebrated filmmakers, and high-profile chefs from around the globe. The 13th Edition of Devour! is slated for October 23-29, 2023. For more information, please visit <https://devourfest.com/>.

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