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One tasteful way to help

Restaurant fund-raiser for firefighters' survivors

By BILL FARRELL
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Brooklyn's top restaurants will serve up a benefit for the borough's fallen firefighters Monday night at Borough Hall.

Twenty-five restaurants, including Gargiulo's, the River Cafe, al di la, Vaux Bistro, Marco Polo, Gage & Tollner, Aunt Suzie's and Henry's End will provide samples of their specialties from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Long Island's Banfi Wineries will provide the wine.

"There were 95 firefighters from 15 firehouses in Brooklyn who lost their lives on Sept. 11," said Joe Chirico, president of the Brooklyn Restaurant Association, which organized the event. "We wanted to do something for these men and their families."

Golden touch

"We came up with the idea of this tasting. We called Borough President Howard Golden, who offered us Borough Hall and will serve as the host for A Taste in Tribute to Brooklyn's Bravest," Chirico said. "All the money we raise will go directly to the families of those firefighters."

"Because of the limited space in Borough Hall, there wasn't enough room for all the restaurants who wanted to set up a tasting station," he said.

"But they all offered their help and made donations."

Chirico, who owns Marco Polo and Gage & Tollner, added, "The restaurants that will be there have promised to deliver some very special dishes. This is going to be a very tasty fund-raising event."

A Taste in Tribute to Brooklyn's Bravest is open to all who make a minimum $50 donation. Reservations may be made by calling (800) 442-5959, and a limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Donations may also be made by check, payable to Independence 9/11 Fund, with the notation "Brooklyn's Bravest," and sent to Brooklyn Restaurant Association Chapter, New York State Restaurant Association, 1001 Sixth Ave., 22nd floor, New York, N.Y. 10018.

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