

Rancho Cielo's Annual Culinary Round Up

Since 2010, Rancho Cielo's annual Culinary Round Up has provided a unique opportunity for guests to meet and see the Ranch's culinary students in action. It's an evening of fun, food, and libations with a Western flair, including an exciting raffle and live auction.

This year's Round Up was held in late February at the Portola Plaza Hotel and Spa in Monterey, California. Proceeds from the event benefit the Drummond Culinary Academy program at Rancho Cielo, where the students have a pathway to earn their high school diploma while gaining hands-on culinary training and earning industry certifications. All the food and beverages, as well as raffle and auction items, are generously donated by local businesses and help generate additional funds needed to serve students.

For foodies, oenophiles, and beer enthusiasts alike, there's nothing better than an evening filled with elegant food and beverages, especially when the cuisine is prepared by some of the finest chefs from across the Monterey Peninsula and the up-and-coming culinary students of the Drummond Culinary Academy.

Set the scene in a beautiful ballroom where guests strolled at their own pace, sampling some of the finest local wines and craft beers to pair with innovative small plates, each composed of ingredients fresh from the bounty of the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas Valley. This is always an exciting networking event for everyone — most importantly for the students, who connect with expert chefs from local restaurants who may be willing to hire them after they graduate.

1. Joseph DeRuosi (Rancho Cielo Senior Director of College, Career & Career Technical Education), Kate Daniels (Monterey County Supervisor Candidate), Kimbley Craig (Mayor of Salinas).

2. Chris Devers (Rancho Cielo CEO), Judge John Phillips (Rancho Cielo Founder), Ted Balestreri (Cannery Row Company Chairman & CEO), Kevin (Rancho Cielo Auto & Deisel Repair Student).

3. Chef Carl Ashurt (Jack's Restaurant at Portola Hotel & Spa), Samuel (Rancho Cielo Drummond Culinary Academy student), Carlitos (Portola Hotel & Spa)

4. Bert Cutino (CEC, AAC, HOF, WCMC, American Academy of Chefs Chair and Rancho Cielo Honorary Board Member).

5. Pete Scudder (Owner, Scudder Roofing & Scudder Solar Energy Systems and Rancho Cielo Board Member), Karen Scudder, Bill Hayward (Hayward Lumber President/CEO and Rancho Cielo Board Member), Zeke Rodriguez (Rancho Cielo Assistant Instructor - Construction & Sustainable Design Academy).

