

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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For Immediate Release
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Enjoy Cooking Demonstrations and Three Batali-Inspired Gardening Plots in The New York Botanical Garden's Family Garden

Mario Batali's Edible Garden
August 27–September 25

Special Appearance by Celebrity Chef Mario Batali on Sunday, September 25



Beginning August 27 at The New York Botanical Garden, *Mario Batali's Edible Garden* program allows families to enjoy daily gardening activities and cooking demonstrations that spotlight kid-friendly recipes with the chance to sample and search for ingredients in the garden. Visitors can explore the three Mario Batali gardening plots in the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden this year, showcasing the celebrity chef's favorite vegetables and fruits. Regular cooking demonstrations in a state-of-the-art outdoor kitchen provided by Viking, featuring the latest in Anolon Gourmet Kitchenware and stocked with groceries from Whole Foods Market, highlight easy, classic recipes created by Batali and chefs from his restaurants. The final weekend, September 24–25, celebrates growing and preparing good food, culminating in an appearance and demonstration by Mario Batali on Sunday, September 25, as well as special activities and additional cooking demos by Batali's chefs. Representatives from Anolon, the gourmet kitchenware brand and presenting sponsor, will demonstrate seasonal recipes and offer tastings for visitors.

The whimsical garden beds of *Mario Batali's Edible Garden* display a cornucopia of fresh food, highlighting some of the ingredients from Mario Batali's recipes—raspberries in the “Batali's Berry Patch”; savory veggies in the “Babbo Beets, Beans, Garlic, and Greens Garden”; and oregano, onions, basil, tomatoes, eggplants, wheat, sweet peppers, and hot peppers in the “Otto Pizza Garden.” With “Mario's Menu Mystery Scavenger Hunt” in hand, visitors can have fun searching for missing ingredients.

“There's nothing better than this place in New York City,” Batali said about The New York Botanical Garden during one of his previous visits. “It's my center of where I hang out. It's where I take my kids. It's where I take my out-of-town friends. It's where I want to be.”

This past spring at The New York Botanical Garden, Mario Batali was joined by New York City Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera to launch the vegetable gardening season and to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden, one of the Botanical Garden's great treasures. Batali was also joined by Bronx schoolchildren as he prepared the themed gardening beds and planted some of the first vegetables in *Mario Batali's Edible Garden*.

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The event celebrated the Howell Family Garden's role in educating the public on the benefits of vegetable gardening and using fresh produce in daily meals. The Family Garden, which is funded in part through the MetLife Healthy Families Program, provides students, teachers, children, and families with the hands-on excitement of growing vegetables and learning about gardening and plants. With help from parents, volunteers, and staff, children have fun getting their hands dirty with themed gardening activities that change monthly. The Family Garden is open Tuesdays through Sundays and Monday holidays, 1:30–5:30 p.m., during the vegetable gardening season.



As part of *Mario Batali's Edible Garden* program, cooking demonstrations take place every day at 2 and 4 p.m. featuring recipes from Mario Batali's chefs. On Sunday, September 18, Esca Restaurant Chef **Katie O'Donnell** and Casa Mono Chef **Anthony Sasso** are scheduled to appear at The New York Botanical Garden. During the final weekend, on Saturday, September 24, Eataly Pastry Chef **Caterina Delogu** will participate in a cooking demonstration at 2:30 p.m., with Eataly Executive Chef **Alex Pilas** appearing at 4:30 p.m. On Sunday, September 25, the guest chefs will be Del Posto Executive Chef **Mark Ladner** and Batali-Bastianich Hospitality Group's Director of Food Safety and Sustainability **Elizabeth Meltz**, at 2:30 p.m., and Casa Mono Executive Chef **Andy Nusser** at 4:30 p.m. Ongoing activities take place from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

On Sunday, September 25, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m., come early for **“Morning with Mario,” a special ticketed event with Mario Batali and friends**. Meet Batali's chefs and NYBG gardeners. Ticket holders can enjoy sampling Batali recipes, additional activities, and a demonstration by Mario Batali himself. Tickets for “Morning with Mario” are \$30 for non-Member adults and \$15 for non-Member children; \$20 for Members and \$10 for Members' children. Advance tickets are recommended and may be purchased at www.nybg.org.

Councilman Joel Rivera said during the launch of the Family Garden's season, “We all live in the concrete jungle of New York City, but that doesn't mean our youth cannot experience a healthier lifestyle especially with The New York Botanical Garden in our backyard. This program is a great exercise for the inner-city children of our community to get their hands dirty in the garden and see the fruits of their labor in a few months' time.”

Presenting Sponsor

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*Programs in the Family Garden are supported by the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, Inc.,
The Ettinger Foundation, Inc., and the Marion Moore Foundation, Inc.*

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, free for children under 2. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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