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A taste of Chicago's food, wine and dining scene

By Chicago Tribune's Good Eating and Dining staffs

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Chicagoans win 'Rising Stars' honors in StarChefs 2008 national awards

Posted by Phil Vettel at 4:50 p.m. CDT

[StarChefs.com](#), an online culinary magazine, will present its StarChefs.com Rising Stars Chef Awards to a dozen Chicagoans at a gala to be held May 19 at the Trump International Hotel and Tower (401 N. Wabash Ave.).

Chef winners were Kendal Duque of [Sepia](#), Tim Graham of [Tru](#), Bill Kim of [Le Lan](#), Christopher Nugent of [Les Nomades](#), Michael Sheerin of [Blackbird](#), Kristine Subido of [Wave](#) and Guiseppe Tentori of [Boka](#). MK's John Kinder was recognized in the mixologist category, and Josh Kaplan, also of MK, took the sommelier award. Shawn McClain, of [Spring](#), [Green Zebra](#) and [Custom House](#) restaurants, won in the restaurateur category.

Rising Stars are considered up-and-coming chefs (and others) who represent the vanguard of contemporary American dining. There are no age or experience restrictions, which explains how a well-established figure such as McClain could be considered "up and coming" by StarChefs. And who's to say McClain's career isn't just beginning?

The awards will be presented officially at the May 19 gala, which will feature a walk-around tasting of the winning chefs' food, along with wine pairings, spirits and entertainment. Tickets are \$150 (VIP tix, which include a private reception, are \$200), and available at [starchefs.com/risingstars](#).

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