

Culinary Program



This year we will bring a Norwegian chef to Houston. We are delighted to announce the participation Norwegian Master Chef, Arne Nese, in the Houston-Galveston/Stavanger Sister City Society's "**Stavanger Days in Texas**" and his assistant Espen K. Johansen. Arne Nese is a native of Norway who learned his trade in Norway, France and Denmark.

Mr. Nese is from Sandnes near the international city of Stavanger and as a 28-year-old father of a 3 year old, he is used to running around keeping up with responsibilities. Sandnes has a history of producing accomplished chefs such as award winning Harold Osa, guest chef with a previous Stavanger Festival and Charles Tjessem, winner of 2003 Bocus d'Or in Lyon France (International Culinary Competition). Arne Nese worked with world-renowned chef Michel Michaud in France who taught him the classic foundations of French cuisine. Arne Nese graduated from The Culinary Institute of Norway in Stavanger.

Although Mr. Nese's love for food was inspired by his mother's skill at using local ingredients and keeping traditions in tact, with his international audience in Stavanger, he brings his philosophy of being progressive and developing his product and his staff, as he understands the experience is beyond the food itself. To continually provide diversity as Head Chef of Clarion Hotel in Stavanger, he maximizes the resources, using innovation as he fuses Norwegian tradition with the ever changing palate of his international clients.

Arne will create Norwegian specialties as part of the menu for "**Zucchini's**" restaurant located in the Galleria near the Westin Oaks Hotel from **March 27th through April 3rd** as part of the "**Stavanger Days in Texas**". "Zucchini's" is open to the public and Nese will be cooking up a storm in the kitchen during the festival presenting a week of exciting Norwegian cuisine.

If you want to taste Arne's food, come on down to "Zucchini's" during the festival in Houston, and say hello to Mr. Nese. You will have a delightful culinary experience. Join the festival and experience a range of dishes, an international flare, and the tastes of Norway in the celebration of the long-standing sister city relationship between Houston/Galveston and Stavanger.

See you at "Zucchini's"!
