



For Immediate Release:

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***Industry Leaders Jon Taffer, Mitsuo Endo and David Hoenemeyer to Receive Dom Pérignon Award of Excellence at 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual UNLVino March 30-April 1***

**Click to tweet:** #UNLVino honors @JonTaffer #MitsuoEndo & @ParisLasVegas #DavidHoenemeyer w @domperignonofficial Award of Excellence: <http://ht.ly/5xdJ309spZE>



The 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of UNLVino will be held Mar. 30 through April 1 with events at The Venetian Las Vegas, Red Rock Casino Resort & Spa and Paris Las Vegas.

**Jon Taffer**, recognized around the world for his hit show “Bar Rescue” on Spike TV, will be the first of three **Dom Pérignon Award of Excellence honorees**. Taffer will receive his award at Bubble-Licious on Thursday, March 30. This prestigious honor is given to those who have distinguished themselves and set an example through their inspirational leadership, character and work ethic in the hospitality industry. In addition to serving as host and executive producer of his TV show, Taffer is also a best-selling author, coveted keynote speaker and Chairman of Taffer Dynamics, a world-renowned hospitality consulting and business services firm. An exclusive meet and greet reception with Taffer and UNLV alumni will take place at The Dorsey, inside The Venetian, just prior to Bubble-Licious.

Chef **Mitsuo Endo** will receive his award at Sake Fever on Friday, March 31. Born in Tokyo, Endo, made his way to Las Vegas in 2007 after stops in Seattle and New York. A year later, he opened Aburiya Raku on Spring Mountain Rd. The restaurant quickly became a hot spot for locals, chefs and visitors. Endo expanded his portfolio in 2013 with Sweets Raku, a restaurant in the same center as Raku, dedicated to desserts; and opened Aburiya Raku West Hollywood in 2016.

**David Hoenemeyer**, Caesars Entertainment Regional President of Bally's, Paris and Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, will be the weekend's final award recipient at the Grand Tasting on Saturday, April 1. Hoenemeyer's hospitality career is deeply rooted in food and beverage with positions held at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City, Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas and Harrah's Las Vegas before moving into assistant general manager, general manager and current executive level roles.

UNLVino events this year include:

**Bubble-Licious at The Venetian Las Vegas**

**Thursday, March 30: 7-10 p.m.**

Indulge in fabulous champagne and sparkling wine intermingled with tastes from the award-winning restaurants of The Venetian & The Palazzo all under the stars.

**Saké Fever at Red Rock Casino Resort & Spa**

**Friday, March 31: 7-10 p.m.**

Delight in a night of amazing sakés and specially concocted Asian-inspired libations combined with bites of exotic flavors from local culinary treasures.

**The Grand Tasting at Paris Las Vegas**

**Saturday, April 1: 7-10 p.m.**

One of the city's signature events, UNLV's culinary students, top Las Vegas restaurants and over 100 wine and spirit partners assemble for a storied evening to culminate the weekend.

Download high res images of honorees [here](#).

Click [here](#) to apply for media credentials.

Visit [UNLVino.com](http://UNLVino.com) and follow Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the most updated event information and to receive information about special offers.

**About UNLVino:**

UNLVino was cofounded in 1974 by the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration and Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada, now operating as Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits. Over the past four decades, UNLVino has raised millions of dollars for scholarships and other academic developmental needs of UNLV students. UNLVino is differentiated through unparalleled, accredited hands-on student experiences at all levels of event planning, execution and promotion, as well as the impactful funds raised each year – all testaments to the celebratory weekend's broader purpose – Take a sip for scholarship.

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