



Previous Chef Showdown Champions: 2016-2023

2023 Winners

NCRLA Chef of the Year: Adé Carrena of Dounou Cuisine in Raleigh

NCRLA Pastry Chef of the Year: Emily Parker of Native Fine Diner in Greenville

NCRLA Mixologist and Distillery of the Year: Stephanie Elliott of Merle's representing Call Family Distillers in Wilkesboro

Runner's Up Chef of the Year: Chef Luke Owens of Native Fine Diner in Greenville

Runner's Up Pastry Chef of the Year: Pastry Chef Savanna Brodar of The Country Club of North Carolina in Pinehurst

Runner's Up Mixologist and Distillery of the Year: Mixologist Ian Murray of Foundation in Raleigh representing Cook's Mill Whiskey in Mebane

People's Choice Chef, powered by the North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission: Bobby McFarland of Wye Hill Hospitality in Raleigh

People's Choice Pastry Chef, powered by the North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission: Jill Wasilewski of Ivory Road Café & Kitchen in Arden

People's Choice Mixologist & Distillery, powered by the North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission: Sekani Akunyun of Lavender & Libations Experience representing Seven Jars Distillery in Charlotte

Undeniably Dairy Awards, presented by The Dairy Alliance

Best Use of Cow's Milk Dairy in a Cocktail or Mocktail: Megan King of Antidote, representing Chemist Spirits

Best Use of Cow's Milk Dairy in a Savory Dish: Chef Sera Cuni of Café Root Cellar

Best Use of Cow's Milk Dairy in a Dessert: Pastry Chef Ann Marie Stefaney of Restaurant Constance

2022 Winners

NCRLA Chef of the Year: Chef Oscar Johnson | Jimmy Pearls, Charlotte

NCRLA Pastry Chef of the Year: Chef Lydia Greene | Machete, Greensboro

NCRLA Mixologist & Distillery of the Year: David Bowen of the Ginger Fox representing Broad Branch Distillery in Winston-Salem

Runner's Up Chef of the Year: Chef Kevin Cottrel | Machete, Greensboro

Runner's Up Pastry Chef of the Year: Chef Gerald Hawkins Jr. | Seabird Restaurant, Wilmington

Runner's Up Mixologist & Distillery of the Year: Jessie Rossabi of The Willard Rooftop Lounge in Raleigh representing Mystic Farm and Distillery in Durham

Performance Foodservice People's Choice Savory Chef: Myles Scaglione | PARA, Charlotte

Performance Foodservice People's Choice Pastry Chef: Chef Savanna Brodar | The Ballantyne Hotel, Charlotte

Performance Foodservice People's Choice Mixologist & Distillery of the Year: Brian Pratt of Flying Machine Taproom and Kitchen representing Blue Shark Vodka in Wilmington

2021 Winners

NCRLA Chef of the Year: Chef Saif Rahman | Vidrio, Raleigh

NCRLA Pastry Chef of the Year: Chef Tiesha Whittaker | Buttermilk Boutique, Clayton NC

NCRLA Mixologist of the Year: Colleen Hughes, Supperland, a part of the Tonidandel-Brown Restaurant Group in Charlotte NC

NCRLA Distillery of the Year: Sutler's Spirits, Winston-Salem NC

Runner-up for Chef of the Year: Chef Chayil Johnson | Community Matters Cafe, Charlotte NC

Runner-up for Pastry Chef of the Year: Chef Gerald Hawkins Jr. | Gaston Country Club, Gastonia

People's Choice Savory Chef: Chef Matthew Rivers | Timberlake's Restaurant at Chetola Mountain Resort, Blowing Rock NC

People's Choice Pastry Chef: Chef Savanna Brodar | Kimpton Tryon Park Hotel, Charlotte NC

People's Choice Specialty Cocktail & Distillery: David Schmidt at Fin & Fettle in Charlotte NC representing Hackney Distillery in Washington NC

2019 Winners

NCRLA Chef of the Year: Chef Steven Goff, AUX Bar, Asheville NC

NCRLA Pastry Chef of the Year: Jamie Turner, The Asbury & Soul Food Sessions, Charlotte

NCRLA Mixologist & Distillery of the Year: Jonny Burritt & Apothecary Beverage

Company, makers of Chemist Spirits, Asheville

2018 Winners

NCRLA Chef of the Year: Travis Myers, Willow's Bistro, Winston-Salem

NCRLA Pastry Chef of the Year: Miranda Brown, The Asbury, Charlotte

NCRLA Mixologist of the Year: Joe Nicol, representing Fainting Goat Spirits, Greensboro

2017 Winners

NCRLA Chef of the Year: Matthew Krenz, The Asbury, Charlotte

NCRLA Pastry Chef of the Year: Ann Marie Stefaney, Heirloom, Charlotte

NCRLA Mixologist of the Year: Amanda Britton, representing Muddy River Distillery, Belmont

2016 Winners

NCRLA Chef of the Year: Chef Jesse Roque, Never Blue, Hendersonville

NCRLA Pastry Chef of the Year: Jossie Perlmutter Lukacik, Sweet Affairs, Charlotte