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American Heart Association® | American Stroke Association®

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## Bravo's "Top Chef" Dave Martin to be Celebrity Guest Chef at 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Champaign County Heart & Stroke Ball

*American Heart Association Black-Tie Fundraiser Taking Place Saturday, February 20, 2010*

**CHAMPAIGN, IL DEC. X, 2010** – The Champaign County Heart & Stroke Ball will celebrate a decade of fundraising on February 20, 2010 in rock-star fashion with a "Heart of Rock & Roll" theme.

Adding to the rock and roll flavor is Celebrity Guest Chef, Dave Martin from season one of Bravo's "Top Chef." Martin will serve VIP guests a customized menu and specialized wine service.

Millions of fans around the country recognize Dave Martin as the inimitable and beloved chef from Bravo TV's "Top Chef" Season One. Undeniably the most popular chef on the show, he won viewer's hearts and palates with his intense layering of flavors and vivid descriptions of his dishes. His approachable yet sophisticated take on old classics, like his signature Black Truffle Mac 'n' Cheese, made him a hit from the streets of NYC to the shores of St. Tropez.



After winning a multi-faceted challenge that showed off his outstanding recipes and people skills, Martin was hand-picked by restaurant mogul Jeffrey Chodorow's (Social) to cook with his team at the Cannes Film Festival. Along with Jeffrey and celebrity chef Michelle Bernstein (Michy's), Martin prepared delectable dishes at an exclusive party for executives from Jimmy Choo, Halle Barry and Hugh Jackman on Social's \$30 million yacht.

These days, Martin has been consulting for Chow Down, Inc. (VYNL Restaurants-UES & Chelsea locations) and overhauling their entire menu with all new from scratch recipes. In his spare time, he teaches classes at 'The Culinary Loft' in SoHo for Execs from MTV, Oracle, Lloyds of London and more. His first cookbook, *Flavor Quest*, has been released and is available at [www.chefdavemartin.com](http://www.chefdavemartin.com).

2009 Heart Ball Chair Charlie Shapland, "The executive committee and I are really excited about the event this year and think the addition of the VIP tables and Celebrity Chef Dave Martin will be great!" Both corporations and individuals support the Heart Ball, which is attended by nearly 300 guests annually. Great music and excellent cuisine bring together co-workers, friends and philanthropists to support the American Heart Association in building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. This event plans to raise \$185,000. These funds will help the Heart Association provide groundbreaking medical research, spread lifesaving knowledge and achieve stronger, longer lives for people in our community. ***Residents of Central Illinois see \$6.00 for every \$1.00 donated invested by the AHA in Champaign County in the form of research alone!***

For more information about the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Champaign County Heart Ball, please visit the event's website at [www.heart.org/champaignheartball](http://www.heart.org/champaignheartball) or contact Amanda Beckler at 217-355-5119 or amanda.beckler@heart.org.

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### **About the American Heart Association**

Founded in 1924, the American Heart Association today is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to building healthier lives, free of heart disease and stroke. These diseases, America's No. 1 and No. 3 killers, and all other cardiovascular diseases claim nearly 870,000 lives a year. In fiscal year 2007-08 the association invested more than \$554 million in research, professional and public education, advocacy and community service programs to help all Americans live longer, healthier lives. To learn more, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit [americanheart.org](http://americanheart.org).