



**Media Contact**

Tiziana Triolo, Director of Programs and Marketing  
Italian Cultural & Community Center

[program\\_development@iccchouston.com](mailto:program_development@iccchouston.com) or [713-524-4222 ext. 7](tel:713-524-4222)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 27, 2015

**ITALIAN CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER  
“TUTTI AI FORNELLI DELLA PICCOLA CUCINA” – CHILDREN  
COOKING CONTEST AND FUNDRAISER**

**WHAT:** On **March 14, 2015** the **Italian Cultural & Community Center** whose mission is to preserve, celebrate and advance Italian culture and heritage, will organize the first cooking contest for kids organized in Texas. The event will help finance the Scuola di Italiano Programs and the renovation of the Historical Milford House, home of the ICCC.

The format of the event, named “**Tutti ai fornelli della Piccola Cucina**”, is that of a cooking contest in which 4 different teams, each one composed by our young Chefs of **La Piccola Cucina** and led by a professional Chef, will prepare a four course dinner for our guests. That evening, the young chefs will demonstrate live each course in front of a technical jury that will taste and judge each course and proclaim the winning team.

**La Piccola Cucina** is a program dedicated to children aged 3 to 12, aimed at teaching the Italian language, the metric system, and the basics of nutrition, as well as promoting the many Italian regional culinary traditions. The program is open to children of all nationalities. These classes are the perfect occasion for children to learn how to prepare authentic Italian recipes while learning the Italian language, the metric system and the basics of nutrition.

For this special occasion we have invited **Fabio Potenzano**, internationally acclaimed Chef, member of the National Italian Chef team that participated in the World Championship held in Luxembourg last November and part of the cast of the "Detto Fatto" TV program conducted by Caterina Balivo and broadcasted on Italy's national public TV channel RAI 2. <http://www.fabiopotenzano.com/> <http://www.fabiopotenzano.com/elenco/video/detto-fatto/>. He will be the Captain of **Cannolo Team** composed by the young Chefs **Giulia Sdringola**, **Veronica Pascucci** and **Pier Francesco Papi**.

The other three Chefs are some of the Houston's best acclaimed Chefs :

**Maurizio Ferrarese**, Executive Chef of Quattro Restaurant at the Four Seasons Hotel, Captain of **Raviolo Team** composed by the young Chefs **Emilio Fronza**, **Ludovica Duchini** and **Domenica Sepe**.

**JohnMichael Linch** Executive Chef of the Hotel Granduca, Captain of **Bruschetta Team** composed by the young Chefs **Diego Sarmiento**, **Robert Wood** and **Antonio Vetrini**.

And **Alberto Baffoni** Executive Chef of Mascalzone Restaurant Captain of **Spiedino Team** composed by the young Chefs **Chiara Cattano**, **Sadie Weller** and **Camilla Manning**.

The Technical Jury is composed of: **Renato De Pirro**, Executive Chef and Food Expert, **Paola Ebranati**, Cultural Attache' of the Italian Consulate of Italy in San Francisco, **Mike Ricetti**, Journalist and Food and Wine Writer, **Cristiana Rastellini**, MD and Nutrizionist, **Salvatore Albelice**, Owner of Sunbelt Inc and Fellini Caffè'.

The event will take place at the **Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management**.

The **Italian Cultural & Community Center** is a 501c3 whose mission is to preserve, celebrate and advance Italian culture and heritage. To learn more about Italian Cultural & Community Center's multiple programs and offerings visit our website: <http://www.iccchouston.com/>.

The event is kindly sponsored by Amore Imports, Barbiero Saponi Italiani, Ciu' Ciu' Vini, Four Seasons Hotel, Hilton University of Houston, Hotel Granduca, Mascalzone Ristorante Italiano, Principe and Us.Foods. Media Partners: Scelte di Gusto and We the Italians.

**WHO:** Italian Cultural & Community Center

**WHEN:** **Saturday, March 14, 2015**  
**6:30 pm**

**WHERE:** **Hilton UH**  
**4800 Calhoun Rd.**  
**Houston, 77004**

**PRICE:** **\$150** Individual Ticket includes Cooking Contest, Dinner and Wine, **\$60** Children (up to 12 years old). Please contact us at [713 524 4222 ext. 4](tel:7135244222) for invitation and reservation.

**ON-SITE**

**CONTACT:** **Melania Spagnoli**, ICCC Events and Communication Coordinator, [713-524-4222 ext.4](tel:7135244222).

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