

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Spice Up The Weekend with *Chefs: Live at The Collection*  
With Special Guest Chef Tom Colicchio – October 14 – 16, 2011**

**BELLEVUE, Wash. (Oct. 6, 2011)** – Support Hopelink and enjoy amazing food at the Chefs: Live at The Collection event, Oct. 14 – 16, 2011 at The Bellevue Collection. Join Chef Tom Colicchio (below) and chefs from The Bellevue Collection restaurants in Center Court for a weekend of restaurant-inspired cooking demonstrations.

When you purchase the Special Edition “Taste for Giving” dining coupon book, you’ll support Hopelink and receive exclusive offers and recipes from participating Bellevue Collection restaurants as well as two of Tom Colicchio’s recipes from his Craft of Cooking book. All sales from the Bellevue Collection dining coupon book goes directly to Hopelink, who serves homeless and low income families.

Winner of the James Beard Foundation’s coveted “Outstanding Chef” award, Tom Colicchio is a 30-year veteran of the restaurant industry. The New Jersey native has three cookbooks and more than a dozen restaurants to his credit, but Colicchio may be best known for his role as head judge on Bravo TV’s hit reality cooking series “Top Chef.”



**Chef Tom Colicchio**

Recently, Colicchio has become an outspoken advocate of efforts to ensure that the nation’s children have access to healthy school lunches, testifying before Congress on reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act.

Colicchio spent his childhood immersed in food, cooking with his mother and grandmother. It was his father, however, who suggested he make a career of it. After teaching himself how to cook, Colicchio made his kitchen debut at age 17 at Evelyn’s Seafood Restaurant in Elizabeth, New Jersey. In July 1994, Colicchio and business partner Danny Meyer opened Gramercy Tavern in Manhattan. In 2001, Tom opened Craft one block south of Gramercy Tavern. Soon after, William Grimes of The New York Times awarded Craft with three stars, deeming the restaurant “a vision of food heaven” followed in 2002 by The James Beard Foundation Award for “Best New Restaurant”.

Colicchio and his restaurants have a history of giving back to the community, including generous support for programs that help hungry families. He serves on the Food Council of City Harvest – the world’s first food rescue organization – which helps feed more than 300,000 hungry New Yorkers every week. Colicchio also is a member of the Culinary Council of The Food Bank for New York City. Shortly after the September 11 attacks, he joined a volunteer army serving food to rescue workers at Ground Zero.

## **Chefs: Live at the Collection Cooking Demonstration Schedule:**

**Center Court, Bellevue Square**

**COOKING DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULE**

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14**

7:00 pm Ruth's Chris Steak House

8:00 pm Boom Noodle

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**

Noon Pagliacci Pizza

1:00 pm McCormick & Schmick's

2:00 pm Din Tai Fung

3:00 pm Munchbar

4:00 pm Palomino

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16**

11:30 am Pearl Bar & Dining

**1:00 pm Chef Tom Colicchio**

3:00 pm Earls Kitchen & Bar

## **GREAT DINING FOR A GOOD CAUSE**



For more information on Chefs: Live at The Collection, go to [www.bellevuecollection.com](http://www.bellevuecollection.com). Cooking demonstrations are free and open to the public. The Taste for Giving dining coupon book is \$25 and available at guest services in Center Court, Bellevue Square, Earls Kitchen an Bar and Paddy Coyne's Irish Pub and Pearl Bar & Dining all located at Lincoln Square starting October 14.

### **About Hopelink**

Since 1971, Hopelink has served homeless and low-income families, children, seniors and people with disabilities in north and east King County by promoting self-sufficiency for all members of our community and helping people make lasting change. Hopelink assists people with meeting their needs for food, shelter, homelessness prevention, family development and stabilization, transportation and adult literacy skills. For more information on Hopelink and its services, call 425.869.6000.

### **About The Bellevue Collection**

Located in the heart of Bellevue, Washington, The Bellevue Collection includes Bellevue Square, Bellevue Place and Lincoln Square. With a distinctive collection of 250 of the finest shops, 23 sit-down restaurants, a 16-screen premier cinema, 1,000 luxury hotel rooms and 10,000 free retail parking spaces, all in one location. The Bellevue Collection is an experience unlike any other in the region. It is located on Bellevue Way between NE 4<sup>th</sup> and NE 10<sup>th</sup> Streets in downtown Bellevue, just across Lake Washington from Seattle.

@BelleCollection (Bellevue Collection Twitter)

@BellesVue (Belle's Twitter)

[www.facebook.com/bellevuecollection](http://www.facebook.com/bellevuecollection) (Bellevue Collection Facebook)

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