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Food, Wine and Beer festivals descend on New York City for fall

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Robert Haynes-Peterson

FALL IS A WONDERFUL TIME for food, wine and beer fans in New York City. Food festivals, wine tastings and more await the thirsty and hungry. The following events allow you to meet world-class chefs and bartenders, sample their wares, and in some cases, cook, shake and pour next to them:

Ultimate Cocktails, Spirits and Wine Blast October 15: From 5p to 10p at the Broadway Ballroom of the Marriott Marquis, you'll have the chance to "blast" your way through some 250 prize-winning whiskies, brandies, vodkas, tequilas, rums, gins and more. Savor cocktails from some of the countries best bartenders, and sip, nose and swirl a portfolio of over 60 wines, champagnes and sparkling wines from around the world. You'll also find brand-specific seminars on brands like Partida tequila, Crop Vodka and Remy Martin Cognac. Also an intriguing seminar on the spirits and wines of China. The public event is the outgrowth of a comprehensive professional spirits judging event earlier this year - the Ultimate Beverage Challenge.

VIP Tickets: \$110 (\$95 before Sept 30) while General Admission is \$90 (\$75) before September 30). Astor Center email subscribers can receive an additional discount. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit ultimate-beverage.com/blastinfo2010.

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