National Geographic Traveller Food Festival announces first names on its line-up

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London 6 February The National Geographic Traveller Food Festival (due to be held 18-19 July at the Business Design Centre, London) has announced the first names on its lineup and launched a revamped website. Among the big names appearing at the festival are Jack Stein, Olia Hercules, Asma Khan and José Pizarro.

Last year's successful event attracted more than 5,500 attendees, with 45 exhibitors and 59 talks, demonstrations and masterclasses welcoming visitors to experience the world through food and travel. On the Main Stage, there was a series of demonstrations from celebrity chefs and interviews with top food personalities.

This year's first billed chefs include:

Jack Stein: Jack began his career as a kitchen porter at dad Rick Stein's The Seafood Restaurant. He's worked all over the world and is now executive development chef for Rick Stein. He runs his own course at Rick Stein's Cookery School, has fronted several TV shows and published his debut cookbook, Jack Stein's World on a Plate, in 2018.

Olia Hercules: Ukrainian-born Olia lived in Cyprus before moving to the UK to study. After working as a reporter, her interest in food led her to retrain as a chef. She soon began to attract critical acclaim for her writing and cooking and has published two cookbooks, Mamushka and Kaukasis; her third, Summer Kitchens, is due out later this year.

Asma Khan: Having started her cooking career with a supper club at her home in Kensington, Asma opened a pop-up in Soho in 2015 to wide acclaim. Her restaurant, Darjeeling Express, opened its doors two years later and her debut cookbook, Asma's Indian Kitchen, was published in 2018. Last year, Asma became the first British chef to feature in Netflix's Chef's Table.

José Pizarro: Spanish chef and author José has three restaurants in London – José, Pizarro and José Pizarro — and last year opened a fourth, The Swan Inn, in Surrey. He's written five critically acclaimed Spanish cookbooks; his latest, Andalusia, was published in 2019.

Glen Mutel, editor of National Geographic Traveller Food, said: "Given that the festival is a celebration of the intertwined worlds of travel and food, it's great to have personalities like Olia, Asma, José and Jack already on board — all fantastic professionals, but each with their own unique outlook, approach and speciality. What's more, this is just the start; we've plenty more to announce over the coming months, from additional big names to exciting new festival features."

In the exhibition hall, culinary experiences for visitors will include everything from food and drink sampling to cooking tutorials. Elsewhere, the festival will feature masterclasses and international experiences with destinations such as Georgia, Greece and Wales.

Speakers' Corner, an intimate lounge venue, will see cookbook authors and food writers discuss their culinary passions and latest publications. The 2020 lineup will be announced later in the year.

When: 18-19 July 2020.
Where: Business Design Centre, Islington
Tickets: Early-bird rate of £10 available until 31 March. Includes one-day entry to the festival, with access to all interviews, Q&As and panel sessions and chef demonstrations

For more information, visit the website
foodfestival.natgeotraveller.co.uk (https://foodfestival.natgeotraveller.co.uk/)

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Notes

National Geographic Traveller Food Festival, 18-19 July at the Business Design Centre, London. Last year's inaugural event attracted more than 5,500 attendees, with 45 exhibitors and 59 talks, demonstrations and masterclasses. The festival will support a major food charity and will aim for zero food waste.
foodfestival.natgeotraveller.co.uk (https://foodfestival.natgeotraveller.co.uk/)

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nationalgeographic.co.uk/food-travel (https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/food-travel)

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