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## New Maritime Parc restaurant in Liberty State Park to host star chefs from New York

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The third-floor outdoor dining space at the new Maritime Parc restaurant in Liberty State Park, Jersey City, has a dramatic view of the Manhattan skyline and the Goldman Sachs building in Jersey City, left.

Maritime Parc may not have brought dockside dinner service to passing sailors by its initial June opening date, but come September boatloads of chefs will descend upon the sprawling new seafood restaurant in Liberty State Park.

For the past month Maritime Parc has hosted open calls to staff its stoves, bars and sinks, readying for its tentative opening on Sept. 8 while filling its two-story event space's calendar with more than 60 bookings from the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey to **Starchefs' Rising Stars of New York City**.

"The interesting thing about this space is the location and what it can turn into, so many different demographics will be experiencing Maritime Parc," executive chef Chris Siverson told The Jersey Journal, describing the versatility of the venue where catered affairs

have already taken place.

So when called upon to host the closing **Starchefs.com's** International Chef Congress – a three-day culinary symposium at the Park Avenue Armory where the nation's most talented chefs share and demonstrate their techniques as well as take part in an international pastry competition and "sommelier smackdown" – the restaurant was prepared. Starchefs will honor New York's most talented young chefs on this side of the Hudson on Sept. 22.

"I think it is a coup for the park, **Jersey City** as well as New Jersey, having such an amazing array of chefs all in one location on a single night," Siverson said.

He'll also be playing host chef for the evening, creating a dish for the gala, a walk-around tasting prepared by the dining industry insider online magazine's 16 picks for the best new talent. This year's rising stars represent seasonal modern restaurants ranging from four-star Eleven Madison Park to Cobble Hill cocktail bar Clover Club and Asiate in the Mandarin Oriental, the hotel that hosted last year's event.

It's the sort of cooking Siverson is striving for at Maritime Parc's with hearty seafood-centric dishes accented by bacon cream, whipped bone marrow, chicken liver croutons and duck fat fries. But beyond steaks and stews, the chef believes Maritime Parc's appeal lies with its maritime setting and skyline views.

And stepping away from the island to see the big picture provides clarity and allows for some forward thinking, something realized by Laura Curtis, Starchefs' Culinary Ambassador.

"We were willing and ready to look outside the box," she confessed.

This won't be the first time such thinking attracted star chefs to Jersey City and Liberty State Park. Last summer, celebrated chefs worked backstage at the [now-defunct All Points West festival](#) where Nikki Cascone formerly of "Top Chef" and Sam Mason, host of IFC's "Dinner With the Band" served low-country cooking to VIP concertgoers.

Like All Points West, the Starchefs gala will be open to the public, ticketholders will be ushered back and forth across the river by chartered ferries, and the afterparties will follow back in Manhattan.

*Maritime Parc is located at 84 Audrey Zapp Drive at the north end of the park. For information, call (201) 413-0050 or go to [maritimeparc.com](http://maritimeparc.com).*

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