





Food & Flavor Trends 2020 and Beyond

The American Culinary Federation (ACF) invited Les Dames d'Escoffier International to present our trend survey to its members at their National Convention in Orlando, Florida, in August. The session was titled "Food and Flavor Trends 2020 and Beyond." LDEI Treasurer **Sharon Olson** highlighted findings of the report and moderated a discussion among six chefs and food professionals from diverse culinary fields.

The panelists received a full copy of the report months before the conference and were tasked with presenting their thoughts and reactions to a particular topic that matched their professional expertise. The 15,000 members of ACF are as diverse as members of LDEI, so the conversation was thoughtful and passionate on a wide range of subjects. The panelists explored global food and flavor trends, sustainability, and the role of food professionals in educating young consumers and inspiring the next generation of chefs.

ACF is considered the leader in offering education resources, training, and accreditation to enhance professional growth for current and future chefs and pastry chefs. The LDEI trends survey was met with great appreciation by the panelists and the audience. One of the panelists told the audience that she considered the report an adventure map for chefs and encouraged every chef in the audience to spend time reviewing the contents. The exchange of ideas lingered long after the assigned time for the session to end, and conversations continued beyond the presentation area.

It was clear that culinary inspiration is an immersive experience and chefs want to be connected and explore first hand. According to the LDEI survey, the top three places professionals look for inspiration are travel, cookbooks, and farmers markets; Internet and social media ranked fourth. The chefs at ACF enthusiastically agreed with many of the insights and findings of the study.

This collaboration with ACF provided an opportunity to build broader awareness and recognition of LDEI with this influential audience.



