

HEALTHY CHEF CHALLENGE 2026



PHIL VETTEL

JUDGING PANEL

Phil Vettel is an acclaimed journalist who wrote for the Chicago Tribune for 41 years, with 31 years dedicated to being a restaurant critic. He served on the James Beard Foundation's Restaurant and Chef Awards committee for 11 years.

Besides his weekly review column, Vettel addressed crucial issues in the hospitality industry, raising Chicago's profile as a premier culinary destination. He was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Illinois Restaurant Association's 2021 annual meeting.

In 2023, Phil received the Jean Banchet Award for Culinary Excellence of the Year, the highest honor for his contributions to Chicago's restaurant scene.

Currently Phil writes a monthly column of restaurant features for Naperville Magazine and does consulting for a restaurant group.