

Duane Riley

Master of Ceremonies in the Food & Beverage Space

Duane Riley is a seasoned Master of Ceremonies and hospitality professional with over 15 years of experience hosting and facilitating premier culinary events across South Africa. Mentored by the late Billy Gallagher and now the Owner and Director of Billy Gallagher and Associates, Duane has built a respected reputation for delivering engaging, seamless, and highly professional event experiences within the food and beverage industry.

Duane has hosted and managed multiple theatres at the internationally acclaimed Good Food & Wine Show, working closely with world-renowned chefs including Marco Pierre White, George Calombaris, Adriano Zumbo, Matt Morand and local celebrities like Bertus Basson, Siba Mtongana, and Reuben Riffel. He oversaw main and sub-theatres ranging from intimate audiences of 50 guests to large-scale demonstrations exceeding 500 attendees, while personally hosting theatre sessions, live demonstrations, and interactive segments such as the popular Global Chef Challenge and numerous SA Chefs' showcases, regularly engaging audiences of up to 600 guests.

He also served as Master of Ceremonies for the prestigious Chefs of Distinction series at Montecasino, spanning 92 instalments and each being a unique dining experience. These exclusive, seated culinary events welcomed approximately 120 guests per dinner, where Duane guided audiences through refined, multi-course chef-led experiences with professionalism, warmth, and insight.

Duane's MC style combines deep industry knowledge with an approachable, educational tone, complemented by light humour and natural audience engagement. His background in hospitality operations, chef liaison, and event management enables him to connect authentically with chefs, brands, and audiences alike, ensuring each event flows effortlessly while enhancing the overall guest experience.

