



## NEWS RELEASE

# A first-class culinary revolution: Chef Randy Rucker will bring his magic to the new Flagship Lounge in Philadelphia

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Get ready, Philly — American Airlines is about to change the way customers pre-game for their flights. This summer, the brand-new Flagship® lounge at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) will be more than just a place to relax. It'll be a destination in itself — and an exclusive gateway to the city for those traveling through PHL.

American carried more than 19 million customers through PHL in 2024, with 355+ peak-day departures to more than 120 destinations. This summer, American will launch five inaugural routes, including flights to Milan and Edinburgh.

And leading the charge in the kitchen? James Beard Award Semifinalist® Chef Randy Rucker, the culinary mind behind **River Twice** and **Little Water**. Those who've dined with Chef Rucker before know he doesn't follow trends — he sets them. His menus are constantly evolving, shaped by what's fresh, local and unexpected. Now, he's bringing that same improvisational brilliance to the Flagship® lounge, crafting a menu that tells the story of Philadelphia.

**Together with the James Beard Foundation®**, American brings exceptional voices in the culinary industry to enhance the experience for customers throughout their travel journey.

"Across all of our lounges, American is committed to serving customers regionally inspired chef-driven cuisine, with menu updates throughout the year to offer new choices each season," said Heather Garboden, American's Chief Customer Officer. "Now, with Chef Rucker at the helm, the Philadelphia Flagship® lounge is set to become one of the most exciting culinary additions to the airport scene."

Chef Rucker is curating a menu that blends his signature contemporary coastal cuisine with Philadelphia's deep culinary roots. Expect dishes that highlight the rich, seasonal ingredients of the region, with each plate designed to please both the adventurous foodie and the traveler simply looking for a delicious meal.

"Representing this incredible city and its rich culinary heritage is a privilege," says Rucker. "I am honored to be the Philadelphia Flagship® lounge Chef and to partner with American on providing travelers with a memorable dining experience that reflects the spirit of this city."

What to expect at the new Flagship lounge:

- Handcrafted, chef-driven dishes that change with the seasons
- Locally sourced ingredients that celebrate the flavors of Philadelphia
- Premium crafted cocktails that are anything but ordinary

Arriving soon: A one-of-a-kind Flagship lounge experience

The American Airlines Flagship® lounge is more than just another airport lounge — it's an experience — and at PHL, it's reaching new heights. The new lounge, which is set to open this summer, will continue to offer self-serve food and wine, ensuring customers can enjoy their favorites at their own pace.

In addition, American is introducing a new hospitality element unique to Philadelphia: a full-service bar, the first of its kind in any of our Flagship® lounges. The bar will elevate customers' pre-flight rituals with expertly crafted cocktails, premium champagne and top-shelf spirits, all curated to bring a refined and sophisticated touch to their journey. With premier amenities, craft cocktails and a menu designed by one of Philadelphia's most celebrated chefs, this is the kind of pre-flight indulgence customers won't want to rush.

Need an in? Here's who can experience PHL's newest space:

- Passengers flying American in Flagship® First and Flagship® Business on qualifying flights
- AAdvantage ConciergeKey® members
- AAdvantage Executive Platinum®, AAdvantage Platinum Pro® and AAdvantage Platinum® members flying on qualifying international routes
- oneworld Emerald™ and oneworld Sapphire™ members flying internationally

Not there yet? Loyalty has its perks. The more members fly and earn with the AAdvantage® program, the closer they get to unlocking premium perks — like access to exclusive lounges where world-class dining meets next-level comfort.

So, rack up those miles and Loyalty Points and get ready for an elevated airport experience — Do yourself a favor, and make sure to come hungry next time you're flying out of Philly.