



Kevin Boehm

Co-CEO & Co-Founder

Boka Restaurant Group

After opening 30 restaurants over the last 27 years, James Beard winning restaurateur Kevin Boehm has become one of the nation's foremost visionaries in the field of hospitality. Kevin, along with his partner Rob Katz have built a restaurant group based on great chefs, inspired design, and enlightened hospitality.

Born in 1970, Kevin grew up in Springfield, Illinois and knew at a young age that he wanted to be in the restaurant business. After working in the industry for just a few years, he saved enough money to open a 6 table restaurant in 1993 in Seaside, Florida. Restaurants in Springfield, Illinois, and Nashville, Tennessee would follow, and Boehm got his education opening and selling 4 restaurants all before the age of 30.

In 2002, Boehm would partner with Rob Katz, and the two would open 26 places together in less than 18 years. The Group's many accolades & accomplishments include 16 James Beard Finalist nominations, two Food & Wines Best New Chefs, 9 consecutive Michelin Stars for Boka, 6 Boka Group restaurants in Chicago Tribunes Top 50 list, and a James Beard Win and Iron Chef designation for Stephanie Izard.

Boehm, along with Katz, won Restaurateurs of the year in TimeOut Chicago in 2010, the Chicago Tribune in 2011, The Illinois Restaurant Association in 2017, and were Eater National's Empire Builders of the years in 2012. They have been James Beard Finalists for Best Restaurateur in America 2016-2019, and New City Chicago ranked them #1 in 2017 in its annual list of the 50 most powerful influencers on the Chicago dining scene. In 2019 they won Outstanding Restaurateur in America at the James Beard Awards.

In addition to Boka Group, Boehm co-founded Bian, a private wellness club in 2020. As a writer he has had pieces published in Esquire Magazine, Plate, The Chicago Sun Times, and McSweeneys. Kevin has been a featured or keynote speaker for the National Restaurant Show, MUFSO, Miami Food & Wine, New York City Wine & Food Festival, Kellogg School of Management, University of Illinois, Hearst, & The Welcome Conference at Lincoln Center. He has given the commencement address at both Culinary Institute of America & Kendall College. He currently sits on the board of the Illinois Restaurant Association, Open Table, & 826 CHI, and is a founding member of the Independent Restaurant Coalition. Boehm lives in downtown Chicago with his wife Cortney, and his three children Sofia, Lola, and Luca.