

## For Immediate Release

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## Indulge this Winter at Whiskey, Wine, & Chocolates at the Memphis Botanic Garden

Memphis, TN - The Memphis Botanic Garden (MBG) is pleased to announce Whiskey, Wine, and Chocolates will return on February 9 from 7-10 pm. New this year, the Garden offers an exclusive VIP add-on guided tasting experience with Phillip Ashley Rix starting at 6:15 pm. This beloved annual event features perfect pairings of chocolates by Memphis-based Chocolatier Phillip Ashley Rix with select whiskeys, wines, & craft beers. These pairings offer a taste experience only matched by the lively atmosphere.

Whiskey, Wine, & Chocolates is perfect for a date night with a special someone or a gal-entine's night out. Attendees will enjoy local & regional libations, an outdoor fireside lounge, and delectable chocolate delights from Phillip Ashley Chocolates. Plus attendees can dance the night away with music from The Beale Street All Star Band throwing down lively tunes or challenge themselves with a perfect-for-couples game or two with local board game bar, Board to Beers.

"I am really excited to continue the Valentine's tradition that the Memphis Botanic Garden and Phillip Ashley Chocolates have created together over the years," said Phillip Ashley Rix, Founder, CEO & Master Chocolatier, Phillip Ashley Chocolates. "It is one of the most well-attended events of any kind and offers something for the lovers and the chocolate lovers alike to enjoy. There will be an all-new VIP-level experience as well. Looking forward to February 9; you won't want to miss it!"

Phillip Ashley Rix is one of the world's preeminent chefs and designers of luxury chocolate. He is an award-winning chocolatier, founding Memphis-based, Phillip Ashley Chocolates in 2012. The brand has an international following and is sought out by high-profile clients, top corporations, and major events to offer premium gifts. A true Ambassador of Taste, he's curated dining experiences at the James Beard House in New York City, as well as creating tens of thousands of chocolates for Hollywood's elite at the EMMYS®, GRAMMYS®, and OSCARS®. In 2014, FORBES Magazine named

Phillip Ashley the “Real Life Willy Wonka.” In February 2020, he competed as a finalist on Food Network’s Chopped Sweets. He was named a James Beard Awards Semi-finalist in 2023.

“Plants aren’t the only thing blooming at the the Garden! We love coming together with community partners to create an opportunity for guests to celebrate ‘love in bloom’ at this unique Valentine's event,” said Gina Harris, Director of Education & Events.

This event is for adults 21+ only. Tickets are \$60 for MBG Members and \$75 for non-members. Each ticket includes admission to the event, five adult beverages each paired with a Phillip Ashley chocolate, and small bites. A limited number of VIP tickets are available and include admission to the event plus an exclusive guided tasting experience with Phillip Ashley Rix featuring four chocolate and adult beverage pairings from 6:15-7 pm.

Whiskey, Wine, & Chocolates is sponsored by Sedgwick with a special thank you to Board to Beers, Phillip Ashley Chocolates, and Delta Dirt Distillery.

All proceeds support the Memphis Botanic Garden.

Learn more and purchase tickets at [membg.org/events/wwc-24](https://membg.org/events/wwc-24)

#### **About Memphis Botanic Garden**

*The Memphis Botanic Garden is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to being an exemplary center for horticulture and environmental enrichment. Serving over 40,000 school-aged children annually, and hosting 260,000 visitors each year, Memphis Botanic Garden strives to enhance lives by connecting people with nature, increasing awareness and appreciation of our environment.*

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