

# NY NEWSWIRE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CHINA'S PIZZA CHAMPION'S PARTICIPATION AT NY PIZZA SHOW THWARTED BY STATE DEPARTMENT

### Visas for Chefs Denied for 2nd Straight Year By U.S. Consulate

**NOTE:** Documentation available upon request.

With the Beijing Olympics just a few months away, China is poised to show the world how much it had progressed in the last three decades. But relations between the U.S. and China are still mired in the past, as evidenced by the U.S. State Dept. banning a Chinese Pizza Champion from attending the equivalent of the Pizza Olympics at the International Restaurant and Foodservice Show and the Fourth Annual PMQ NY Pizza Show at New York City's Javits Center.

In competition with 30 other Chinese pizza makers, Songsin Lui (English name: Peter Lui), the boyish young pizza chef at Pizzeria Calzone in China, was named the champ by PMQ Magazine, published in Oxford, Miss. The grand prize was a trip to the United States to participate in the America's Plate competition at the International Restaurant & Foodservice Show and NY Pizza Show. This year's event is March 9 to March 11 at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City, just across town from where pizza was introduced to the United States in Little Italy. With attendance expected by thousands of U.S. and international pizza mavens, the NY Pizza Show celebrates the \$3.3-billion U.S. Pizza industry and instills a sense of global camaraderie with participants from around the world.

"We had all the documents they required for his visa application, but due to an unknown reason which I would like to know, they said he wasn't eligible to get the non-immigrant visa. So I am very sad about this matter," said Miguel Alves, a spokesperson for Mr. Lui from Pizzeria Calzone in Dongguan City in the Guangdong Province of China. Mr. Alves plans to attend the NY Pizza Show, but said the Chinese team will be compromised without the participation of Mr. Lui.

Mr. Lui was selected as Chinese Pizza Champion by PMQ, which searches the United States and the world for the most talented pizza chefs. PMQ Publisher Steve Green is taking action to ask the General Consulate of the United States to reconsider its ruling in this matter.

"China is beginning to embrace pizza as much as the rest of the world, and their pizza businesses buy U.S. ovens, equipment, supplies and expertise," Mr. Green said. "Our international competition is intended to foster these important economic relationships by including the best chefs in the world. We hope that we can resolve the visa application difficulties for this year and for the future."

The America's Plate competition is expected to feature competitors from Australia, China, Finland, Italy, France and the United States, among others. The defending champion is Fabian Martin of Spain. Further information is available at [www.americasplate.com](http://www.americasplate.com).

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