

THE SPLURGE

Tired of the karaoke warblers and deli platters at your company parties? For a mere \$100K to \$150K, Molto Mario promises to spice up your corporate event. The fleshy baron of the city's Italian dining scene (Babbo, Lupa, Del Posto) has not only taken over the Food Network, he's taking his sideshow on the road with a new enterprise, **Magic, Martinis, and Mario** (630-618-4756, magicmartinismario.com). Together with two old pals—mixologist Tony Abou-Ganim and magician Billy Harris—Mario Batali will go anywhere in the world. Billy teaches card tricks! Tony may name a cocktail after you! Mario executes flamboyant feats of cuisine! What you're paying for? Quality time with the renowned partier, even (so his flack promises) after the festivities are over. The hefty price tag is all-inclusive—except for the food, of course. The 100 grand only buys you the talent.



*From left, Tony Abou-Ganim, Billy Harris, and Mario Batali
Photo: Cinzia Reale-Castello*