

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION AWARDS NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

NEW YORK, NY (March 23, 2009) – The James Beard Foundation, the nation's most prestigious recognition program honoring professionals in the food and beverage industries, announced today the nominees for the 2009 James Beard Foundation Awards. Susan Ungaro, James Beard Foundation President, hosted an invitation-only breakfast at JBF Award-winning chef Rick Bayless' and JBF Trustee Deann Bayless' highly-acclaimed *Frontera Grill* restaurant in Chicago, IL, where nominees in 52 categories were announced in the Foundation's various awards programs – Restaurant and Chef, Book, Journalism, Design and Graphics, and Broadcast Media. Honorees in a number of special achievement awards, including Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America, Lifetime Achievement, Humanitarian of the Year, and America's Classics, were announced as well. A complete list of nominees can be found at the end of this release.

Highlights from this year's list of nominees include:

Outstanding Restaurant: Babbo (Chef/Owner: Mario Batali, Owner: Joe Bastianich, New York, NY); Boulevard (Chef/Owner: Nancy Oakes, Owner: Pat Kuleto, San Francisco, CA); Fore Street (Chef/Owner: Sam Hayward, Owners: Victor Leon and Dana Street, Portland, ME); Highlands Bar & Grill (Chef/Owner: Frank Stitt, Birmingham, AL); Jean Georges (Chef/Owner: Jean-Georges Vongerichten, Owner: Phil Suarez, New York, NY)

Outstanding Chef: José Andrés (*Minibar*, Washington, D.C.); Dan Barber (*Blue Hill*, New York, NY); Tom Colicchio (*Craft*, New York, NY); Suzanne Goin (*Lucques*, Los Angeles, CA); Paul Kahan (*Blackbird*, Chicago, IL)

Rising Star Chef: Nate Appleman (*A16*, San Francisco, CA); Sean Brock (*McCrady's*, Charleston, SC); Johnny Monis (*Komi*, Washington, D.C.); Gabriel Rucker (*Le Pigeon*, Portland, OR); Michael Solomonov (*Zahav*, Philadelphia, PA); Sue Zemanick (*Gautreau's*, New Orleans, LA)

Best New Restaurant: The Bazaar by José Andrés at SLS Hotel at Beverly Hills (Chef/Owner: José Andrés, Owners: Sam Nazarian and Philippe Starck, Los Angeles, CA); Corton (Chef/Owner: Paul Liebrandt, Owner: Drew Nieporent, New York, NY); L2O (Chef: Laurent Gras, Owner: Richard Melman, Chicago, IL); Momofuku Ko (Chef/Owner: David Chang, New York, NY); Scarpetta (Chef/Owner: Scott Conant, New York, NY)

In addition, some of the special achievement award recipients include:

Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America: David Burke (Chef, Entrepreneur, New York, NY); John T. Edge (Journalist, Director, Southern Foodways Alliance, Oxford, MS); Betty Fussell (Author, Culinary Historian, New York, NY); Dorothy Cann Hamilton (Founder, The French Culinary Institute, New York, NY); Clark Wolf (Clark Wolf Company, New York, NY)

America's Classics: Breitbach's Country Dining (Owner: Mike Breitbach, Sherrill, IA); Totonno's (Owner: Lawrence Ciminieri, Brooklyn, NY); Mustache Bill's Diner (Owner: Bill Smith, Barnegat Light, NJ); Yank Sing (Owner: Vera Chan-Waller, San Francisco, CA); Arnold's Country Kitchen (Owners: Jack and Rose Arnold, Nashville, TN)

Winners of the Restaurant and Chef, Book, Design and Graphics, and special achievement awards will be celebrated at the highly-anticipated annual **Awards Ceremony and Gala Reception**, taking place on **Monday**, **May 4**, **2009** at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall. The Awards Ceremony and Gala Reception are open to the general public, and tickets can be purchased by calling the Awards Box Office at 212.925.0054 or by visiting www.JBFAwards.com. General public tickets are \$450, but the James Beard Foundation is offering an "Early Bird Special" \$50 ticket buyer discount from March 23rd – April 4th. The Journalism and Broadcast Media Awards will be presented at the invitation-only **Media Awards Dinner** on **Sunday**, **May 3**, **2009** at the Hudson Theatre in midtown Manhattan. All award winners will receive a certificate and a bronze medallion engraved with the James Beard Foundation Awards insignia. There are no cash awards.

Established in 1990, the James Beard Foundation Awards recognize culinary professionals for excellence and achievement in their fields and continue to emphasize the Foundation's mission: to celebrate, preserve, and nurture America's culinary heritage and diversity. The 2009 James Beard Foundation Awards will celebrate **Women in Food**. A highlight of the May 4th festivities will be the Gala Reception, which will take place following the Awards Ceremony at Avery Fisher Hall,

featuring a line-up of some of America's most noteworthy female chefs, sommeliers, mixologists and artisanal producers. **Lidia Matticchio Bastianich**, acclaimed chef, restaurateur, television personality, cookbook author and multiple James Beard Foundation Award-winner, will serve as the honorary Gala Chair. As Gala Chair, Ms. Bastianich will work with the Awards Committee in the menu selection of the culinary talents featured at the Gala Reception.

The 2009 James Beard Foundation Awards are presented in association with All-Clad Metalcrafters and American Express® (the official card of the James Beard Foundation); Premier Sponsors: Green & Black's® Organic Chocolate, Lexus, Viking Range Corporation; Supporting Sponsors: Delta Air Lines, illy caffè North America, Inc., Southern Wine & Spirits of New York, Stella Artois; Gala Reception Sponsors: Acqua Panna® Natural Spring Water, Ecolab, Pernod Ricard USA, Rums of Puerto Rico, S.Pellegrino® Sparkling Natural Mineral Water; and with additional support from Chefwear and Pommery Champagne.

About the James Beard Foundation

The James Beard Foundation is dedicated to celebrating, preserving, and nurturing America's culinary heritage and diversity in order to elevate the appreciation of our culinary excellence. A cookbook author and teacher with an encyclopedic knowledge about food, James Beard, who died in 1985, was a champion of American cuisine. He helped educate and mentor generations of professional chefs and food enthusiasts. Today, the Beard Foundation continues in the same spirit by administering a number of diverse programs that include educational initiatives, food industry awards, scholarships to culinary schools, and publications, and by maintaining the historic James Beard House in New York City's Greenwich Village as a performance space for visiting chefs. For more information, please visit www.jamesbeard.org.

2009 James Beard Foundation Awards Nominees

Broadcast Media Awards

Presented by Viking Range Corporation

For television, webcast, and radio programs aired in 2008.

Audio Webcast or Radio Show

Living Today, Martha Stewart Living Radio: José Andrés

Host: Mario Bosquez Area: Nationwide U.S.

Producers: Naomi Gabay and Lauren Gould

*Graperadio.com: Thomas Jefferson and Wine*Hosts: Brian Clark, Eric Anderson, and Jay Selman

Area: Online

Producer: Jay Selman

WNYC, The Leonard Lopate Show: 3-Ingredient Challenge

Hosts: Leonard Lopate and Rozanne Gold

Area: New York City Metro, Online

Producer: Sarah English

Video Webcast

Obsessives: School Lunch Revolutionary

Chow.com

Producer: Meredith Arthur

The Art of Blending

Hosts: Brian Clark, Eric Anderson, and Jay Selman

Graperadio.com

Producers: Jay Selman and Mark Ryan

Savoring the Best of World Flavors, Volume III: Vietnam and the Island of Sicily

Host: Jonathan Coleman Ciaprochef.com/WCA3/

Producers: John Barkley, Kenneth Wilmoth, Greg Drescher, Steve Jilleba, and Janet Fletcher

Television Food Show, National and Local

Lidia's Italy: Sweet Napoli

Host: Lidia Matticchio Bastianich

Network: PBS

Producers: Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, Julia Harrison, and Shelly Burgess Nicotra

The Château Dinner: A French Food at Home Special with Laura Calder

Host: Laura Calder

Network: Food Network Canada

Producer: Johanna Eliot

We Live to Eat: New Orleans' Love Affair with Food

Network: PBS

Producers: e/Prime Media and the Historic New Orleans Collection

Television Food Segment, National and Local

ABC News, Nightline: Platelist

Hosts: Martin Bashir, Cynthia McFadden, and Terry Moran

Network: ABC

Producer: Sarah Rosenberg

CBS News Sunday Morning: In a Pinch

Host: Martha Teichner

Network: CBS

Producers: Jon Carras and David Small

ABC 7 News Friday Night Special: Hungry Hound

Host: Steve Dolinsky

Network: ABC

Producer: Badriyyah Waheed

Journalism Awards

For articles published in English in 2008.

Newspaper Feature Writing About Restaurants and/or Chefs

Monica Eng, Phil Vettel

Chicago Tribune

"Big Night. Big Mystery: Why Did Michael Carlson Vanish the Day After Serving Dinner to the Greatest Chefs in the World?"

Katy McLaughlin
The Wall Street Journal
"Sushi Bullies"

Tom Sietsema
The Washington Post
"Sound Check"

Newspaper Feature Writing Without Recipes

Monica Eng Chicago Tribune

"Morality Bites: Mustering Some Sympathy for the Bedeviled Ham and Beef"

Kristen Hinman Riverfront Times "The Pope of Pork"

Craig LaBan
The Philadelphia Inquirer
"The Tender and the Tough"

Newspaper Feature Writing with Recipes

Rebekah Denn

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

"High on the Hairy Hogs: Super-Succulent Imports are Everything U.S. Pork Isn't"

David Leite

The New York Times

"Perfection? Hint: It's Warm and Has a Secret"

Kathleen Purvis

The Charlotte Observer

"The Belly of the Beast"

Newspaper Food Section

Chicago Tribune
Carol Mighton Haddix

San Francisco Chronicle Jon Bonné and Miriam Morgan

The Washington Post Joe Yonan

Magazine Feature Writing About Restaurants and/or Chefs

Ruth Reichl

Gourmet

"The Last Time I Saw Paris..."

Alan Richman Departures

"Eating Small in New York"

Anya von Bremzen Food & Wine

"The Grilling Genius of Spain"

Magazine Feature Writing with Recipes

Edna Lewis*

Gourmet

"What is Southern?"

*Published Posthumously

David Dobbs

Recipes by John Ash

EatingWell

"The Wild Salmon Debate: A Fresh Look at Whether Eating Farmed Salmon is...Well...OK"

James Peterson

Saveur

"Mother Sauce: The Ancient Art of the *Saucier* is Alive and Well in the Kitchens of Paris and Beyond"

Magazine Feature Writing Without Recipes

Alan Richman GQ

"Made (Better) in Japan"

Patricia Sharpe and the staff members of *Texas Monthly Magazine Texas Monthly* "BBQ 08 (The Top 50 BBQ Joints in Texas)"

Monique Truong

Gourmet

"My Cherry Amour"

Restaurant Reviews

Jonathan Gold

LA Weekly

"A Proper Brasserie," "A Fine Palate," "Pho Town"

Adam Platt
New York Magazine
"Faux French," "The Mario of Midtown," "Corton on Hudson"

Tom Sietsema

The Washington Post

"Great Expectations," "Robo Restaurant," "An Earned Exclamation"

Reporting on Nutrition or Food-Related Consumer Issues

Barry Estabrook

Gourmet

"Greens of Wrath"

Mark Adams, Amanda Fortini, Melissa Kirsch, Josh Ozersky, Rob Patronite, Adam Platt, and Robin Raisfeld

New York Magazine

"What Good is Breakfast?"

Rachael Moeller Gorman EatingWell "How to Feed Your Mind"

Blog Focusing on Food, Beverage, Restaurants, or Nutrition

Andrew Knowlton The BA Foodist Bonappetit.com

Hank Shaw
Hunter Angler Gardener Cook
Honest-food.net

Erika Ehmsen, Elizabeth Jardina, Rick LaFrentz, Amy Machnak, Johanna Silver, Margaret Sloan, and Margo True

Our One-Block Diet

Oneblockdiet.sunset.com

Food-Related Columns

Dorie Greenspan

Bon Appétit

"Bacon-Cheddar Quick Bread," "All-Purpose Holiday Cake," "My Go-To Dough"

Corby Kummer

The Atlantic

"A Papaya Grows in Holyoke," "Beyond the McIntosh," "Half a Loaf"

Laura Shapiro

Gourmet.com

"Campaign Cookies," "Why Does America Hate Ratatouille?," "The Lord is my Chef"

Writing on Spirits, Wine, or Beer

Jon Bonné
San Francisco Chronicle
"Revolution by the Glass"

Jay McInerney Men's Vogue "Billionaire Winos"

Alan Richman

GQ

"Viva La Revolucion!"

Website Focusing on Food, Beverage, Restaurants, or Nutrition

Chow.com Jane Goldman

Epicurious.com

Tanya Steel

Gourmet.com

Ruth Reichl

Multimedia Food Journalism

Ruth Reichl Gourmet.com "Gourmet Cookbook Club"

Ruth Reichl Gourmet.com "The Test Kitchen" Mike Sula Chicagoreader.com "The Whole Hog Project"

M.F.K. Fisher Distinguished Writing Award

Celia Barbour

O, The Oprah Magazine
"Knead, Pray, Love"

Aleksandra Crapanzano Gourmet "Benedictions"

Alan Richman GQ "My Sweet Life"

Book Awards

Presented by Green & Black's® Organic Chocolate For cookbooks published in English in 2008.

American Cooking

Arthur Schwartz's Jewish Home Cooking: Yiddish Recipes Revisited by Arthur Schwartz (Ten Speed Press)

Cooking Up a Storm: Recipes Lost and Found from The Times-Picayune of New Orleans Edited by: Marcelle Bienvenu and Judy Walker (Chronicle Books)

Screen Doors and Sweet Tea: Recipes and Tales from a Southern Cook by Martha Hall Foose (Clarkson Potter)

Baking

Bakewise: The Hows and Whys of Successful Baking by Shirley O. Corriher (Scribner)

Baking for All Occasions: A Treasury of Recipes for Everyday Celebrations by Flo Braker (Chronicle Books)

The Art and Soul of Baking by Cindy Mushet, Sur La Table (Andrews McMeel Publishing)

Beverage

The Harney and Sons Guide to Tea by Michael Harney (The Penguin Press)

The Wines of Burgundy by Clive Coates (University of California Press)

WineWise: Your Complete Guide to Understanding, Selecting, and Enjoying Wine by Steven Kolpan, Brian H. Smith, and Michael A. Weiss, The Culinary Institute of America (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.)

Cooking from a Professional Point of View

Alinea by Grant Achatz (Achatz LLC/Ten Speed Press)

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook by Heston Blumenthal (Bloomsbury USA)

Under Pressure: Cooking Sous Vide by Thomas Keller (Artisan)

General Cooking

How to Cook Everything (Completely Revised Tenth Anniversary Edition) by Mark Bittman (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.)

Martha Stewart's Cooking School: Lessons and Recipes for the Home Cook by Martha Stewart with Sarah Carey (Clarkson Potter)

The Bon Appétit Fast Easy Fresh Cookbook by Barbara Fairchild (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.)

Healthy Focus

Cooking with the Seasons at Rancho La Puerta: Recipes from the World-Famous Spa by Deborah Szekely and Deborah M. Schneider, with Jesús González (Stewart, Tabori & Chang)

EatingWell for a Healthy Heart Cookbook by Philip A. Ades, M.D. and the Editors of EatingWell (The Countryman Press)

The Food You Crave: Luscious Recipes for a Healthy Life by Ellie Krieger (The Taunton Press, Inc.)

International

Beyond the Great Wall: Recipes and Travels in the Other China by Jeffrey Alford and Naomi Duguid (Artisan)

Jewish Holiday Cooking: A Food Lover's Treasury of Classics and Improvisations by Jayne Cohen (John Wiley & Sons, Inc.)

Southeast Asian Flavors: Adventures in Cooking the Foods of Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, & Singapore by Robert Danhi (Mortar & Press)

Photography

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook
Photographer: Dominic Davies
Artist: Dave McKean
(Bloomsbury USA)

Decadent Desserts
Photographer: Thomas Dhellemmes
(Flammarion)

Haute Chinese Cuisine from the Kitchen of Wakiya Photographer: Masashi Kuma (Kodansha International)

Reference and Scholarship

Milk: The Surprising Story of Milk Through the Ages by Anne Mendelson (Knopf)

The Flavor Bible: The Essential Guide to Culinary Creativity, Based on the Wisdom of America's Most Imaginative Chefs by Andrew Dornenburg and Karen Page (Little, Brown and Company)

The Science of Good Food by David Joachim and Andrew Schloss, with A. Philip Handel, Ph.D. (Robert Rose Inc.)

Single Subject

Fat: An Appreciation of a Misunderstood Ingredient, with Recipes by Jennifer McLagan (Ten Speed Press)

Mediterranean Fresh: A Compendium of One-Plate Salad Meals and Mix-and-Match Dressings by Joyce Goldstein (W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.)

The Best Casserole Cookbook Ever by Beatrice Ojakangas (Chronicle Books)

Writing and Literature

In Defense of Food by Michael Pollan (The Penguin Press)

Shark's Fin and Sichuan Pepper: A Sweet-Sour Memoir of Eating in China by Fuchsia Dunlop (W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.)

Raising Steaks: The Life and Times of American Beef by Betty Fussell

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Design and Graphics Awards

Outstanding Restaurant Design

For the best restaurant design or renovation in North America since January 1, 2006

Design Firm: Design Bureaux, Inc. Designer: Thomas Schlesser Project: The Publican, Chicago

Design Firm: Design Bureaux, Inc. Designer: Thomas Schlesser Project: Bar Boulud, NYC

Design Firm: Starck Network and SBE Design Team

Designers: Philippe Starck, Bruno Barrione, and Theresa Fatino

Project: The Bazaar by José Andrés at SLS Hotel at Beverly Hills, Los Angeles

Outstanding Restaurant Graphics

For the best restaurant graphics executed in North America since January 1, 2006

Design Firm: The JNL Graphic Design

Designers: Jason Pickleman and Donald Madia

Project: The Publican, Chicago

Design Firm: Korn Design

Designers: Denise Korn, Javier Cortés, and Bryant Ross

Project: The Corner Office, Denver

Designer: Steven Solomon Project: Terroir, NYC

Restaurant and Chef Awards

Outstanding Restaurateur Award

A working restaurateur who sets high national standards in restaurant operations and entrepreneurship. Candidates must have been in the restaurant business for at least 10 years. Candidates must not have been nominated for a James Beard Foundation chef award in the past 10 years.

Tom Douglas
Tom Douglas Restaurants
Seattle

Keith McNally Balthazar, Lucky Strike, Morandi, Pastis, Pravda, and Schiller's Liquor Bar NYC

Richard Melman Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises Chicago

Drew Nieporent Myriad Restaurant Group NYC

Stephen Starr Starr Restaurant Organization Philadelphia

Outstanding Chef Award

Presented by All-Clad Metalcrafters

A working chef in America whose career has set national industry standards and who has served as an inspiration to other food professionals. Candidates must have been working as chefs for at least the past 5 years.

José Andrés Minibar Washington, D.C.

Dan Barber Blue Hill NYC

Tom Colicchio Craft

NYC

Suzanne Goin Lucques Los Angeles

Paul Kahan Blackbird Chicago

Outstanding Restaurant Award

A restaurant in the United States that serves as a national standard-bearer for consistent quality and excellence in food, atmosphere, and service. Candidates must have been in operation for at least 10 or more consecutive years.

Babbo NYC

Chef/Owner: Mario Batali Owner: Joe Bastianich

Boulevard San Francisco

Chef/Owner: Nancy Oakes

Owner: Pat Kuleto

Fore Street Portland, ME

Chef/Owner: Sam Hayward

Owners: Victor Leon and Dana Street

Highlands Bar & Grill Birmingham, AL

Chef/Owner: Frank Stitt

Jean Georges

NYC

Chef/Owner: Jean-Georges Vongerichten

Owner: Phil Suarez

Rising Star Chef of the Year Award

A chef age 30 or younger who displays an impressive talent and who is likely to have a significant impact on the industry in years to come.

Nate Appleman

A16

San Francisco

Sean Brock McCrady's

Charleston, SC

Johnny Monis

Komi

Washington, D.C.

Gabriel Rucker Le Pigeon Portland, OR

Michael Solomonov

Zahav

Philadelphia

Sue Zemanick Gautreau's New Orleans

Best New Restaurant

Presented by Lexus

A restaurant opened in 2008 that already displays excellence in food, beverage, and service and is likely to have a significant impact on the industry in years to come.

The Bazaar by José Andrés at SLS Hotel at Beverly Hills

Los Angeles

Chef/Owner: José Andrés

Owners: Sam Nazarian and Philippe Starck

Corton NYC

Chef/Owner: Paul Liebrandt Owner: Drew Nieporent

L2O Chicago

Chef: Laurent Gras Owner: Richard Melman

Momofuku Ko

NYC

Chef/Owner: David Chang

Scarpetta NYC

Chef/Owner: Scott Conant

Outstanding Pastry Chef Award Presented by All-Clad Metalcrafters

A chef or baker who prepares desserts, pastries, or breads and who serves as a national standard-bearer for excellence. Candidates must have been pastry chefs or bakers for at least the past 5 years.

Gina DePalma

Babbo NYC

Kamel Guechida

Joël Robuchon at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas

Pichet Ong

P*ong NYC

Nicole Plue

Redd

Yountville, CA

Mindy Segal Mindy's HotChocolate Chicago

Outstanding Wine Service Award

A restaurant that displays and encourages excellence in wine service through a well-presented wine list, a knowledgeable staff, and efforts to educate customers about wine. Candidates must have been in operation for at least 5 years.

Bin 36 Chicago

Wine Director: Brian Duncan

Blackberry Farm Walland, TN

Wine Director: Andy Chabot

Le Bernardin

NYC

Wine Director: Aldo Sohm

Patina Los Angeles

Wine Director: Eric Espuny

Picasso at Bellagio

Las Vegas

Wine Director: Robert Smith

Outstanding Wine and Spirits Professional Award Presented by Southern Wine & Spirits

A winemaker, brewer, or spirits professional who has had a significant impact on the wine and spirits industry nationwide. Candidates must have been in the profession for at least 5 years.

Dale DeGroff Co., Inc. NYC

Merry Edwards Merry Edwards Wines Sebastopol, CA

Garrett Oliver The Brooklyn Brewery Brooklyn, NY

John Shafer and Doug Shafer Shafer Vineyards Napa, CA

Julian P. Van Winkle, III Old Rip Van Winkle Distillery Louisville, KY

Outstanding Service Award

A restaurant that demonstrates high standards of hospitality and service. Candidates must have been in operation for at least the past 5 years.

Daniel NYC

Owners: Daniel Boulud and Joel Smilow

Emeril's New Orleans

New Orleans

Owner: Emeril Lagasse

La Grenouille

NYC

Owners: Charles Masson and Gisèle Masson

Spiaggia Chicago

Owner: Levy Restaurants

Vetri

Philadelphia

Owners: Marc Vetri and Jeff Benjamin

Best Chefs in America

Presented by American Express®

Chefs who have set new or consistent standards of excellence in their respective regions. Candidates must have been working as chefs in any type of dining establishment for at least the past 5 years. The 3 most recent years must have been spent in the region where the chef is presently working.

Best Chef: Pacific (CA, HI)

Jeremy Fox Ubuntu Napa, CA

Douglas Keane Cyrus Healdsburg, CA

Loretta Keller Coco500 San Francisco

David Kinch Manresa Los Gatos, CA

Daniel Patterson

Coi

San Francisco

Best Chef: Mid-Atlantic (D.C., DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA)

Cathal Armstrong Restaurant Eve Alexandria, VA

Jose Garces Amada Philadelphia

Peter Pastan Obelisk Washington, D.C.

Maricel Presilla Cucharamama Hoboken, NJ

Vikram Sunderam Rasika Washington, D.C.

Best Chef: Midwest (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI)

Isaac Becker 112 Eatery Minneapolis

Gerard Craft Niche St. Louis, MO

Colby Garrelts Bluestem Kansas City, MO

Tim McKee La Belle Vie Minneapolis

Alexander Roberts Restaurant Alma Minneapolis

Best Chef: Great Lakes (IL, IN, MI, OH)

Koren Grieveson Avec Chicago

Arun Sampanthavivat Arun's Chicago Bruce Sherman North Pond Chicago

Michael Symon Lola Cleveland

Alex Young Zingerman's Roadhouse Ann Arbor, MI

Best Chef: New York City (Five Boroughs)

Michael Anthony Gramercy Tavern

Terrance Brennan Picholine

Wylie Dufresne WD-50

Gabrielle Hamilton Prune

Gabriel Kreuther The Modern

Best Chef: Northeast (CT, MA, ME, NH, NY STATE, RI, VT)

Rob Evans Hugo's Portland, ME

Clark Frasier and Mark Gaier Arrows Ogunquit, ME

Michael Leviton Lumière West Newton, MA

Tony Maws Craigie on Main Cambridge, MA

Marc Orfaly Pigalle Boston

Best Chef: Northwest (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY)

Maria Hines Tilth Seattle

Joseba Jiménez de Jiménez The Harvest Vine Seattle

Ethan Stowell Union Seattle

Cathy Whims Nostrana Portland, OR

Jason Wilson Crush Seattle

Best Chef: Southeast (GA, KY, NC, SC, TN, WV)

Hugh Acheson Five and Ten Athens, GA

Linton Hopkins Restaurant Eugene Atlanta

Mike Lata Fig Charleston, SC

Bill Smith Crook's Corner Chapel Hill, NC

Bob Waggoner Charleston Grill Charleston, SC

Best Chef: Southwest (AZ, CO, NM, NV, OK, TX, UT)

Paul Bartolotta Bartolotta Ristorante di Mare at Wynn Las Vegas

Sharon Hage York Street Dallas Ryan Hardy Montagna at the Little Nell Aspen, CO

Claude Le Tohic Joël Robuchon at MGM Grand Hotel & Casino Las Vegas

Andrew Weissman Le Rêve San Antonio

Best Chef: South (AL, AR, FL, LA, MS)

Zach Bell Café Boulud at the Brazilian Court Palm Beach, FL

John Currence City Grocery Oxford, MS

John Harris Lilette New Orleans

Douglas Rodriguez Ola Miami Beach, FL

Michael Schwartz Michael's Genuine Food & Drink Miami