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## 2013 James Beard Foundation Award Finalists To Be Announced in Charleston, South Carolina

CHARLESTON, SC – August 30, 2012: The BB&T Charleston Wine + Food Festival®, together with the Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, are proud to announce that the James Beard Foundation Award finalists will be announced live on Monday, March 18, 2013, in Charleston, South Carolina. As part of the announcement, the two organizations will host a special fundraiser for the James Beard Foundation (JBF) at Fort Moultrie, a national park site.

The finalist announcements will take place at historic Lowndes Grove Plantation at 11:00 A.M. EST. A live feed of the announcements will be available online exclusively at Eater.com. Winners will be announced at the James Beard Foundation Awards on May 6, 2013, at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. A few days prior, on Friday, May 3, 2013, the James Beard Foundation Book, Broadcast & Journalism Awards Dinner, an exclusive event honoring the nation's top cookbook authors, culinary broadcast producers and hosts, and food journalists, will take place at Gotham Hall in New York City.

The JBF fundraiser in Charleston will be one of the first private events ever held at Fort Moultrie and will feature Charleston chefs who have either received a JBF Award, received a nomination, or recently cooked at the James Beard House. Other Charlestonians with ties to the Foundation, such as the authors of JBF Award-winning cookbooks, will also participate. The menu will reflect the era when the Fort was originally in use, and will also spotlight traditional Lowcountry cuisine and ingredients.

Fort Moultrie played a central role in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Originally constructed in the 1770s, it was later replaced by a brick structure in 1809 and then modernized in the 1870s. The grounds are part of the National Park Service and attract thousands of visitors each year. The JBF fundraiser will begin with cocktails and hors d'oeuvre served throughout the interior of the Fort, allowing guests to tour the structure and listen to historians speak to the Fort's significance. Guests will then move to the beachside front lawn for dinner and breathtaking views of Fort Sumter, the Sullivan's Island lighthouse, and the downtown Charleston skyline.

Tickets will be available for purchase in September at [charlestonwineandfood.com](http://charlestonwineandfood.com).

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The BB&T Charleston Wine + Food Festival®, February 28 – March 3, 2013, celebrates the best that the city of Charleston, SC has to offer: a local food culture rich in tradition, James Beard Award-Winning chefs, and the best city to visit in the U.S., according to *Condé Nast Traveler's* 2011 Readers' Choice Awards. The four-day event, praised as one of the top five food and wine festivals in the U.S. by *Forbes Traveler*, infuses home-grown flavor with the most celebrated chefs, culinary professionals, and winemakers in the world. The Festival, a non-profit organization, benefits local scholarships. Tickets for the 2013 Festival go on sale August 30, 2012. For more information about the Festival, please visit [www.charlestonwineandfood.com](http://www.charlestonwineandfood.com).

### About the James Beard Foundation

Founded in 1986, 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 [jamesbeard.org](http://jamesbeard.org). Find insights on food at the James Beard Foundation's blog *Delights & Prejudices*. Join the James Beard Foundation on Facebook. Follow the James Beard Foundation on Twitter.