

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

James Beard Foundation Contact: Alexandra Pearson or Diane Stefani
Alexandra@rosengrouppr.com / Diane@rosengrouppr.com / 212.255.8455

Social: #JBFTASTEAMERICA



**James Beard Foundation's Third Annual
Taste America®: "Local Flavor from Coast to Coast"
Visits Ten of America's Dynamic Culinary Cities this Fall**

2015 All-Stars include Hugh Acheson, John Besh, April Bloomfield, Traci Des Jardins, Rocco DiSpirito, Tyler Florence, Mark Ladner, Tony Mantuano, Michel Nischan, Art Smith, and Jonathan Waxman

New York, NY (July 15, 2015) – The [James Beard Foundation](http://jamesbeardfoundation.org) (JBF) is pleased to announce the third consecutive year of the **Taste America®: "Local Flavor from Coast To Coast"** national epicurean tour, which will visit ten American cities this fall. Spanning six weekends between September 18 and November 7, 2015, the program will stop in Boston, Charleston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Phoenix, San Francisco, and Seattle. Each stop will feature a special evening that starts off with a walk-around tasting reception from a lineup of celebrated local chefs, followed by a one-of-a-kind, four-course dinner crafted in collaboration with a Taste America All-Star and a Local Star chef from that city. Tickets went on sale today at jbfasteamerica.org.

Taste America Honorary All-Star John Besh will kick off the 2015 program at an invite-only reception at the historic James Beard House in New York City on August 4. A James Beard Award-winning chef and celebrated champion of American cuisine, Besh is dedicated to celebrating the bounty and traditions of his native southern Louisiana, preserving and promoting the region's ingredients, techniques, and heritage one mouth-watering dish at a time. Presented by premier national Taste America sponsor New Orleans, the evening's menu will be prepared by Besh Restaurant Group's own James Beard Award-winning chef Alon Shaya (Domenica, Pizza Domenica, and Shaya; New Orleans).

The Taste America 2015 program will send each All-Star on the road to host local events and act as ambassadors for JBF in participating cities. This year's Taste America All-Stars include Hugh Acheson, April Bloomfield, Traci Des Jardins, Rocco DiSpirito, Tyler Florence, Mark Ladner, Tony Mantuano, Michel Nischan, Art Smith, and Jonathan Waxman.

In addition to the benefit dinners in each city, the Taste America lineup of public programming for 2015 includes free in-store consumer events at Sur La Table® with celebrity chef appearances, cooking demos, book signings, tastings from local producers and artisans, as well as product demos and tastings from our national sponsors. Reservations for the free cooking demos will begin two weeks prior to each event at jbfasteamerica.org.

The full Taste America program calendar is as follows:

- Sept. 18-19 Miami: All-Star Rocco DiSpirito*

- Sept. 25-26 Charleston: All-Star Art Smith*/Phoenix: All-Star Michel Nischan*
- Oct. 2-3 Minneapolis: All-Star Jonathan Waxman*/Seattle: All-Star Tyler Florence
- Oct. 9-10 Boston: All-Star Traci Des Jardins*/New Orleans: All-Star April Bloomfield*
- Oct. 23-24 Chicago: All-Star Mark Ladner*/San Francisco: All-Star Tony Mantuano*
- Nov. 6-7 Los Angeles: All-Star Hugh Acheson*

**Notes James Beard Award Winner*

“This is an electrifying time in the food world, made evident by the remarkably innovative dishes chefs are creating in their respective cities, large and small, across America,” said Susan Ungaro, president of the James Beard Foundation. “Now in its third year, our Taste America program both celebrates and educates Americans about our country’s diverse culinary landscape, and the talented toques who are cultivating it. We are thrilled to bring Taste America to these ten dynamic cities this year, and unite some of the top talent in the industry for a truly unique dining experience.”

The James Beard Foundation is proud to donate a portion of the evening’s proceeds to the Taste America Scholarship Fund. Local culinary students in the states participating in the 2015 Taste America program are invited to apply for this culinary scholarship between April 1 and May 15, 2016, at jamesbeard.org. Candidates will be reviewed by the JBF Scholarship Selection Committee, chaired by Ungaro.

The James Beard Foundation’s Taste America is presented in association with The Ritz-Carlton Rewards® Credit Card and is supported by the following national sponsors: premier sponsors Lifeway Foods and New Orleans; supporting sponsors BACARDÍ GRAN RESERVA®, Breville®, Nespresso®, and Sodexo; digital media partner The Daily Meal®; and by returning national retail partner Sur La Table.

For more information, visit jbftasteamerica.org and follow #JBFTasteAmerica on Twitter and Instagram.

About the James Beard Foundation (JBF)

Founded in 1986, the James Beard Foundation celebrates, nurtures, and honors America's diverse culinary heritage through programs that educate and inspire. 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, instilling in them the value of wholesome, healthful, and delicious food. Today JBF continues in the same spirit by administering a number of diverse programs that include educational initiatives, food industry awards, scholarships for culinary students, publications, chef advocacy training, and thought-leader convening. The Foundation also maintains the historic James Beard House in New York City’s Greenwich Village as a “performance space” for visiting chefs. In September of 2012, JBF launched the Diplomatic Culinary Partnership with the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Protocol and helped create the American Chef Corps as a way to champion American chefs abroad, promote American food products, and foster an interest in American culinary culture and history through international programs and initiatives. One such project is Expo Milano 2015, a global gathering of 147 countries addressing the challenges of how we will feed ourselves in the future. At Expo, the James Beard Foundation has co-lead the effort for the State Department to design and produce the USA Pavilion; the theme of the pavilion, “American Food 2.0: United to Feed the Planet,” showcases America’s contributions to global food security and gastronomy. For more information, please visit jamesbeard.org. Get JBF news, recipes, and more at the James Beard Foundation’s [blog](#). Join the James Beard Foundation on [Facebook](#). Follow the James Beard Foundation on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

###