

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contacts:

James Curich / Jessica Cheng
Susan Magrino Agency
212-957-3005

james@smapr.com / cheng@smapr.com



**THE JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION AND GOURMET MAGAZINE
PRESENT
THE 2008 WHO'S WHO OF FOOD & BEVERAGE IN AMERICA**

***New inductees honored at special event on
Saturday, June 7, 2008 in New York City***

NEW YORK, NY (June 7, 2008) – The James Beard Foundation and *Gourmet* magazine announced today the new inductees into the James Beard Foundation's **Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America** during an invitation-only reception hosted by *Gourmet* magazine at The Plaza Hotel's Terrace Room in New York City. The event marked the first year the James Beard Foundation celebrated these esteemed culinary professionals at a separate, stand-alone ceremony. The James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America recognizes a prestigious group of culinary professionals who have made a significant and unique contribution to the industry. Susan Ungaro, President of the James Beard Foundation, and William Rice, Committee Chair, introduced the six 2008 inductees at the event as part of the overall festivities of the James Beard Foundation Awards weekend. The Media Awards Dinner took place Friday, June 6, 2008, and the Awards Ceremony and Gala Reception will be held Sunday, June 8, 2008.

The James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America 2008 inductees include:

- **Dan Barber:** Chef/Owner, *Blue Hill*, NYC, and *Blue Hill at Stone Barns*, Pocantico Hills, NY
- **Anthony Bourdain:** Author and Chef, NYC
- **Nancy Oakes:** Chef/Owner, *Boulevard*, San Francisco, CA
- **Russ Parsons:** Writer, *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles, CA
- **Zanne Early Stewart:** Food Editor, *Gourmet*, NYC
- **Steve Sullivan:** Baker, *Acme Bread Company*, Berkeley, CA

- more -

"We are pleased to partner with *Gourmet* to induct these exceptional individuals into the Who's Who," said Susan Ungaro, President of the James Beard Foundation. "This prestigious group represents the leaders in our nation's culinary community and each member has made a distinct and significant impression on our country's culinary heritage that will continue to shape the industry for years to come."

"Honoring the American food world's best and brightest, The James Beard Foundation's Who's Who Award is the most prestigious award in the world of American food today," said Ruth Reichl, editor in chief of *Gourmet*. "We are delighted to welcome the six new inductees into the Who's Who, now in its 24th year."

The Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America was established in 1984 by *Cook's Magazine* and *Restaurant Business* and became part of the James Beard Foundation's awards program in 1990. Members of the Who's Who are individuals who have made a unique and long-lasting contribution to American gastronomy and who have been active in the industry for at least 10 years. New inductees are nominated and selected to join the prestigious group by the current members, which include Alice Waters (1984), Drew Nieporent (1992), Kevin Zraly (1988), Martha Stewart (1995), Thomas Keller (2000), and José Andrés (2007) to name a few. Balloting for the voting process is conducted by the independent accounting firm Lutz & Carr. Each inductee was presented with a bronze medallion etched with the image of the late James Beard, as well as a certificate from the James Beard Foundation. With the announcement of these five new inductees, there are now 201 current members. For a complete list of Who's Who members, visit www.jamesbeard.org and click on the "Awards" tab.

The James Beard Foundation Awards are the nation's preeminent recognition program honoring professionals in the food and beverage industries. The Awards celebrate outstanding achievement in each of the following categories: Restaurants and Chefs, Books, Journalism, Restaurant Design and Graphics, Broadcast Media, and special achievement awards. Each category has an individual Awards Committee made up of industry professionals who volunteer their time to oversee the policies, procedures, and selection of judges for their respective Awards program.

Renowned chefs Dan Barber (*Blue Hill, Blue Hill at Stone Barns*) and Odessa Piper (*L'Etoile*) are Chef Co-Chairs of the 2008 James Beard Foundation Awards. This year's events celebrate

“Artisanal America” and honor those artisans and craftsmen who work to provide the finest ingredients to the nation’s top restaurants and chefs. The annual Media Awards Dinner was held Friday, June 6, 2008 at the Hudson Theatre, an exclusive event hosted by celebrated writers and cookbook authors, Matt and Ted Lee. The Media Awards honor the nation’s preeminent food journalists and culinary broadcast programs. The Awards Ceremony and Gala Reception will be co-hosted by Kim Catrall and Bobby Flay on Sunday, June 8, 2008 at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, during which the Restaurant and Chef awards will be handed out, along with book honors and a number of special achievement awards.

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.

About Gourmet

Gourmet, The Magazine of Good Living, celebrates the pleasures of dining, entertaining and travel with an affluent and active audience of more than 5.4 million passionate readers each month. *Gourmet* is first to identify and report on America's changing epicurean landscape that will change the way we eat, drink and travel tomorrow. *Gourmet* presents authentic and unique epicurean experiences from around the globe, ranging from the everyday to the extraordinary, through award-winning journalism and photography by acclaimed writers and photographers. www.gourmet.com

#