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**James Beard Foundation's Fourth Annual Taste America®
Visits Ten of America's Dynamic Culinary Cities this Fall**

2016 All-Stars include Dan Barber, John Besh, Tom Colicchio, Scott Conant, Amanda Freitag, Jose Garces, Alex Guarnaschelli, Stephanie Izard, Gavin Kaysen, Anita Lo, and Missy Robbins

New York, NY (June 1, 2016) - The [James Beard Foundation \(JBF\)](#) is pleased to announce the fourth consecutive year of the **Taste America®** national culinary tour, which will bring celebrated chefs and eager diners together for a unique series of delectable events this fall. Spanning six weekends between September 23 and November 5, 2016, this year's program will stop in ten dynamic American cities including Boston, Charleston, Chicago, Kansas City, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Phoenix, Portland, OR, San Francisco, and the Twin Cities. Each city's weekend-long itinerary will feature a one-of-a-kind benefit dinner prepared by a Taste America All-Star and Local Star chef, as well as free in-store consumer events at select Sur La Table® locations with celebrity chef appearances, cooking demos, book signings, tastings from local producers and artisans, and more. In addition, James Beard Award winner and Taste America Honorary All-Star **Tom Colicchio** will launch the 2016 program at an invite-only reception at the historic James Beard House in New York City on August 3.

Taste America programming in each participating city will kick off with *A Night of Culinary Stars*, an exclusive dining event benefiting the James Beard Foundation. The evening will begin with a walk-around tasting reception filled with cocktails and hors d'oeuvre from local chefs and restaurateurs, followed by an extraordinary four-course dinner crafted in collaboration by a Taste America All-Star and a Local Star chef, who will be paired together to create an unforgettable one-night-only menu. Local chefs participating in *A Night of Culinary Stars* will be announced with the box office launch in June 2016. Please visit jbftasteamerica.org for more details.

The full 2016 Taste America program calendar is as follows:

- Sept. 23-24 Los Angeles: All-Star **Scott Conant***/Phoenix: All-Star **Amanda Freitag***
- Sept. 30-Oct. 1 Kansas City: All-Star **Gavin Kaysen***/New Orleans: All-Star **Alex Guarnaschelli***
- Oct. 14-15 Chicago: All-Star **Missy Robbins*****
- Oct. 21-22 Portland, OR: All-Star **Stephanie Izard***
- Oct. 28-29 Twin Cities: All-Star **Jose Garces***/Boston: All-Star **John Besh***
- Nov. 4-5 Charleston: All-Star **Dan Barber***/San Francisco: All-Star **Anita Lo****

*Notes James Beard Award Winner

**Notes James Beard Award Nominee

***Notes James Beard Award Semifinalist

"In recent years, it has been exciting to watch Americans take an ever-growing interest in the sourcing, preparation, and artistry that goes into the food we eat," said Susan Ungaro, president of the James Beard Foundation. "There are great chefs turning out truly inspired food from Charleston to Portland and everywhere in between, and we are thrilled to be

able to bring so many of them together to foster a delicious dialogue about our country's vibrant culinary landscape for the fourth year running.”

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 ten participating states are invited to apply for this culinary scholarship between April 1 and May 15, 2017, via jamesbeard.org. Candidates will be reviewed by the JBF Scholarship Selection Committee, chaired by Ungaro.

The James Beard Foundation's Taste America 2016 is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors and partners, including premier national sponsor New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation; supporting sponsors Breville®, Sodexo, and TABASCO®; retail partner Sur La Table; national media partner *Savour*; and digital media partner The Daily Meal®. Additional support has been provided by Chefwear and VerTerra Dinnerware.

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, the late James Beard 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. For more information, please visit jamesbeard.org. Get food news, recipes, and more at the James Beard Foundation's [blog](#), or subscribe to the free digital newsletter [Beard Bites](#). Follow the James Beard Foundation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Livestream](#).