



James Beard Foundation's 5th Annual Taste America® Tour Kicks Off at the James Beard House

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Honorary Taste America All-Star Thomas Keller joined JBF President Susan Ungaro and All-Star Chefs Daniel Boulud, Traci Des Jardins, Rocco DiSpirito, Tony Mantuano, and Marc Murphy to Celebrate Culinary Collaboration across the Country

New York, NY (August 3, 2017) – Top culinary talent from across the country joined James Beard Foundation president Susan Ungaro to kick off the **James Beard Foundation's 5th Annual Taste America®** ten-city tour at the James Beard House last night. Honorary Taste America All-Star Thomas Keller, 2017 Taste America All-Stars Daniel Boulud, Traci Des Jardins, Rocco DiSpirito, Tony Mantuano, and Marc Murphy were among the star-studded chef line up at the invitation-only event where details of this year's culinary program were announced.

"Having chef Keller lead us into the 5th Anniversary year of this national program is made even more special since he was part of an early pilot program in 2007," said Ungaro. "Not only is Thomas Keller the first American-born chef to hold multiple three-star Michelin Star ratings, but he is also the first American male chef to receive the Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor. His influence in supporting excellence in our culinary world is unparalleled."

As guests posed for selfies with the life-size cutout of James Beard, the All-Star Chefs, Keller and Ungaro mingled among an audience including JBF Board Chair Fred Seegal, Adele Schober of Breville, Blue Circle Food's Bill Cole, Reed Miller from Tabasco, and Per Se's Chef de Cuisine Eli Kaimeh, who created the menu with Chef Keller for the kick-off.

"The James Beard Foundation has contributed to the evolution of America's dining culture," said Keller. "I am delighted to serve as Honorary Chair of this year's Taste America program and lend my support to the Foundation's important mission to celebrate, nurture, and honor chefs and other leaders in our profession."

The lineup of **JBF's 5th Anniversary Taste America** chefs and cities are as follows:

- Sept. 22-23
 - Phoenix: All-Star **Traci Des Jardins***; Local Star **Nobuo Fukuda***
- Oct. 6-7
 - Los Angeles: All-Star **Barbara Lynch***; Local Star **Michael Cimarusti****



- New Orleans: All-Star **Rocco DiSpirito***; Local Star **Rebecca Wilcomb***
- Oct. 13-14
 - Philadelphia: All-Star **Marc Murphy***; Local Star **Greg Vernick***
 - Seattle: All-Star **Ashley Christensen***; Local Star **Matt Dillon***
- Oct. 27-28
 - Chicago: All-Star **Michael Voltaggio**; Local Star **Stephanie Izard***
 - San Francisco: All-Star **Hugh Acheson***; Local Stars **Stuart Brioza* & Nicole Krasinski***
- Nov. 3-4
 - Austin: All-Star **Ludo Lefebvre****; Local Star **Tyson Cole***
 - Boston: All-Star **Daniel Boulud***; Local Star **Karen Akunowicz****
- Nov. 10-11
 - Kansas City: All-Star **Tony Mantuano***; Local Star **Debbie Gold***

**Notes James Beard Award Winner*

***Notes James Beard Award Nominee*

The James Beard Foundation's 5th Anniversary Taste America tour is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors and partners, including supporting sponsors Blue Circle Foods®, Breville®, Kerrygold, Robert Mondavi Winery, Sodexo, TABASCO®, and Windstar Cruises; patron sponsors Choose Chicago and New Orleans Tourism; retail partner Sur La Table®; national media/marketing partners The Daily Meal®, Destinations International and Off Duty / *The Wall Street Journal*; and founding partner Bowen & Company. Additional support is provided by Chefwear, Hansgrohe, and VerTerra Dinnerware. Kick-off beverages provided by Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte, Stumptown Coffee Roasters and William Grant & Sons.

The James Beard Foundation also announced that a portion of proceeds for the cross country tour will go to the [Taste America Scholarship Fund](#), in which local culinary students in the 10 participating states were invited to apply.

Details of the ten cities on JBF's Fifth Anniversary Taste America program (which include *A Night of Culinary Stars* exclusive one-night only dining event crafted in collaboration by a Taste America All-Star and a Local Star chef) are here at jamesbeard.org/tasteamerica.

About the James Beard Foundation

Founded in 1986, the James Beard Foundation celebrates, nurtures, and honors chefs and other leaders making America's food culture more delicious, diverse, and sustainable for everyone. 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 @beardfoundation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), and Snapchat. Watch the James Beard House Kitchen Cam, James Beard Awards, and more on the Foundation's [Livestream](#) channel. Find more JBF-related video on the Foundation's [YouTube](#) channels.