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## Top Chefs Kicked Off 4<sup>th</sup> Annual James Beard Foundation's Taste America® Ten-City Tour at Historic James Beard House

*~ Honorary All-Star Tom Colicchio joined JBF President Susan Ungaro and All-Star Chefs John Besh, Scott Conant, Amanda Freitag, Anita Lo, and Missy Robbins to Announce Campaign Celebrating American Cuisine ~*

New York, NY (August 4, 2016) – The culinary community was out in full force last night with James Beard Foundation president Susan Ungaro in celebrating the cities, chefs, and sponsors of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual [James Beard Foundation's Taste America®](#) at the James Beard House. Taste America Honorary All-Star Tom Colicchio joined this year's Taste America All-Stars, John Besh, Scott Conant, Amanda Freitag, Anita Lo, and Missy Robbins at an invitation-only event announcing this year's program that will take place in Boston; Charleston, S.C.; Chicago; Kansas City, MO; Los Angeles; New Orleans; Phoenix; Portland, OR; San Francisco; and the Twin Cities.

“We’re delighted to have Tom serve as kick-off host of our national Taste America program. His work exemplifies consumers’ ever-growing interest in knowing about everything on their plate: where food comes from, eliminating food waste, and appreciating the culinary artistry of great chefs,” said Susan Ungaro, who is celebrating her 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as president of the James Beard Foundation, itself in its 30<sup>th</sup> year. “In addition to being a multiple James Beard Award winner, cookbook author, and star of Bravo’s Emmy-winning show, *Top Chef*, Tom is making headlines and a difference by becoming a major mover and shaker on Capitol Hill to advance good food policy and make our food world a better place. We are so proud to have him lead the charge for this year’s talented group of Taste America All-Stars.”

Together Colicchio and Ungaro welcomed an audience including Emmy Award-winning actress Patricia Clarkson, guest of Taste America premier national sponsor New Orleans Tourism; and chef Bryan Hunt, executive chef of Colicchio’s new restaurant Fowler & Wells at the Beekman Hotel in New York City, who created the menu for the event.

“Really great to see the Foundation get behind promoting better food through better policy,” said Colicchio before announcing the details of Taste America 2016.

Details of the ten cities in the Taste America 2016 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 [jbf-tasteamerica.org](http://jbf-tasteamerica.org), and as follows:

- Sept. 23-24 Los Angeles: All-Star **Scott Conant\*** with Local Star chef **Curtis Stone**  
Phoenix: All-Star **Amanda Freitag\*** with Local Star chef **Christopher Gross\***
- Sept. 30-Oct. 1 Kansas City: All-Star **Gavin Kaysen\*** with Local Star chef **Colby Garrelts\***  
New Orleans: All-Star **Alex Guarnaschelli\*** with Local Star chef **Justin Devillier\***

- Oct. 14-15 Chicago: All-Star **Missy Robbins**\*\*\* with Local Star chef **Jimmy Bannos, Jr.**\*
- Oct. 21-22 Portland, OR: All-Star **Stephanie Izard**\* with Local Star chef **Greg Higgins**\*
- Oct. 28-29 Twin Cities: All-Star **Jose Garces**\* with Local Star chef **Thomas Boemer**\*\*\*  
Boston: All-Star **John Besh**\* with Local Star chef **Ana Sortun**\*
- Nov. 4-5 Charleston: All-Star **Dan Barber**\* with Local Star chef **Sean Brock**\*  
San Francisco: All-Star **Anita Lo**\*\* with Local Star chef **Charles Phan**\*

*\*Notes James Beard Award Winner*

*\*\*Notes James Beard Award Nominee*

*\*\*\*Notes James Beard Award Semifinalist*

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; supporting sponsors Breville®, Sodexo, Stacy's® 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, Hansgrohe, and VerTerra Dinnerware. Kick-off beverages provided by Heritage Distilling Co., Starbucks Reserve®, and Washington State Wine Commission.

A portion of the proceeds from Taste America 2016 benefit dinners will go to JBF programs including the Taste America Scholarship Fund, which supports an aspiring culinary student in each of the host states. Since 1991, the JBF's legacy scholarship program has awarded more than \$6 million dollars in financial aid to students who want to become America's next great chefs, restaurateurs, and winemakers.

### **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](http://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](#).

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