



The Palazzo Las Vegas to host The James Beard Foundation's Taste America™ Gala

Festival Dinners at Restaurant Charlie at The Palazzo and Piero Selvaggio's Valentino at The Venetian pave the way for an extraordinary culinary event

Las Vegas, NV (October 23, 2008)--- The Palazzo Las Vegas will host the most anticipated culinary event of the year, The James Beard Foundation Taste America™ Gala on October 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. James Beard Award winners and nominees will take guests on a four-course culinary road trip as they work together to create dishes that will delight and satisfy the most noble food connoisseur. Festival dinners at Restaurant Charlie at The Palazzo and Piero Selvaggio's Valentino at The Venetian will take place on Friday, October 24, 2008 as James Beard Award Winning Chefs Charlie Trotter and Luciano Pelligrini serve exemplary cuisine and wine pairings within their restaurant.

Saturday, October 25, 2008: The James Beard Foundation's Taste America Gala
The Palazzo Las Vegas will host an astounding gala as more than a dozen of the most distinguished chefs in the country, James Beard Award winning chefs join host chefs at The Palazzo Las Vegas to create a once-in-a-lifetime cuisine presentation. Gala hosts Susan Ungaro, President of The James Beard Foundation and Celebrity Chef and multiple James Beard Award winner Charlie Trotter will toast to a spectacular evening as cuisine is prepared by The Palazzo and The Venetian Host Chefs:

- Zach Allen, Carnevino/B&B Ristorante/Enoteca San Marco
- David Burke, David Burke
- Olivier Dubreuil, The Venetian and The Palazzo
- Ludo Lefebvre, LAVO
- Long Nguyen, The Venetian and The Palazzo
- JBF Award Winner Luciano Pellegrini, Piero Selvaggio's Valentino
- David Robins, Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group

The four-course seated dinner will also include cuisine by the following James Beard Foundation Award-winning chefs: **Patrick Connolly**, Bobo, NYC, **R.J. Cooper III**, Vidalia, Washington, DC, **Traci Des Jardins**, Jardinière, San Francisco, **Jean-Louis Gerin**, Jean-Louis, Greenwich, CT, **Donald Link**, Herbsaint, New Orleans, **Shawn McClain**, Spring, Chicago, **Adam Siegel**, Bartolotta's Lake Park Bistro, Milwaukee, **Holly Smith**, Café Juanita, Kirkland, WA, **Robert Stehling**, Hominy Grill, Charleston, SC, **John Sundstrom**, Lark, Seattle, **Celina Tio**, Julia(n), Charlotte, NC and **Fabio Trabocchi**, Fiamma, NYC.

The Gala begins at 7:00 pm with a cocktail reception and silent auction in The Palazzo Ballroom. Following, a seated four-course dinner with wine pairings, a live auction, and dessert reception.

Friday, October 24, 2008: Festival dinners

The Palazzo and The Venetian will kick-off The James Beard Foundation's Taste America weekend on Friday, October 24, 2008 at Restaurant Charlie and Piero Selvaggio's Valentino. Starting at 6:30pm, multiple James Beard award winner and Celebrity Chef Charlie Trotter will serve an astounding fifteen course reception and dinner menu that will be complemented by rare wines from a mystery winemaker. In conjunction, James Beard Award winner Luciano Pellegrini will begin a cocktail reception at 7:00 p.m. followed by a six-course truffle and wine pairing dinner at Piero Selvaggio's Valentino.

Tickets for the Saturday Benefit Gala and Festival Dinners can be purchased at www.jbftasteamerica.com or by calling 212.925.0054. Additionally, tickets may be purchased in person or by phone at Restaurant Charlie at The Palazzo or Piero Selvaggio's Valentino at The Venetian. Please call Restaurant Charlie at 702.607.6336 or Piero Selvaggio's Valentino at 702.414.3000 for more information.

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ABOUT THE PALAZZO LAS VEGAS

With over 3,000 expansive suites, luxury shopping and world-class dining and entertainment, the \$1.9 billion, 50-story Palazzo Las Vegas literally takes luxury to new heights. Highlighted by a flagship, 85,000-square-foot Barneys New York, The Shoppes at The Palazzo features more than 60 luxury boutiques. In addition, 20 remarkable stores and luxury brands made their Las Vegas

debuts at The Palazzo, including Chloe, Tory Burch, Christian Louboutin, Diane Von Furstenberg, Van Cleef & Arpels, Catherine Malandrino, Anya Hindmarch, and Michael Kors. Additionally, The Palazzo offers a variety of cuisines from a collection of award-winning chefs such as CarneVino by Mario Batali, CUT by Wolfgang Puck, Table 10 by Emeril Lagasse and Restaurant Charlie by Charlie Trotter. Other one-of-kind offerings include, Tony Award winning Broadway musical, JERSEY BOYS, the chic dining and nightlife LAVO, the world's largest Canyon Ranch SpaClub, and the Strip's first Lamborghini dealership.

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 of 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 James 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.

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