

***MY TABLE* MAGAZINE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF
14TH ANNUAL HOUSTON CULINARY AWARDS**

HOUSTON – October 4, 2010 . . . Houston’s top chefs, restaurateurs, industry professionals and local “foodies” gathered for the 14th Annual Houston Culinary Awards, held at the newly renovated ballroom at the Hilton University of Houston. The awards, presented annually by *My Table* magazine and this year co-presented by Sysco, recognize Houston’s culinary *crème de le crème* in 10 categories, voted on by the dining public. The gala awards ceremony also debuted the new Foodie Star Awards and included a tribute to restaurateurs/brothers Vincent, Tony and Damian Mandola, recipients of the 12th Legends of Houston Restaurants Award. Event proceeds benefited the Houston Food Bank’s Kids Cafe program.

Winners of the **2010 Houston Culinary Awards** are:

RESTAURATEUR OF THE YEAR ~ Alex Brennan-Martin, Brennan’s and Bistro Alex

CHEF OF THE YEAR ~ Chris Shepherd, Catalan

UP-AND-COMING CHEF OF THE YEAR (*age 35 or younger*) ~ David Cordúa, Américas

OUTSTANDING WINE SERVICE ~ The Tasting Room

PASTRY CHEF OF THE YEAR (*includes breadmakers*) ~ Ruben Ortega, Backstreet Cafe and Hugo’s

OUTSTANDING BAR SERVICE ~ Capital Grille

SERVICE PERSON OF THE YEAR ~ Sean Beck, Backstreet Cafe, Hugo’s and Trevisio

HOUSTON CLASSIC (*a restaurant in business for 10 or more years*) ~ Carrabba’s

BEST INTERIOR DESIGN ~ Américas in The Woodlands

BEST NEW RESTAURANT (*must have opened since June 1, 2008*) ~ Haven

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Winners of the **2010 Houston Food Star Awards** are:

Favorite Ethnic ~ Fadi’s Mediterranean Grill

Favorite Bakery ~ French Riviera Bakery & Cafe

Favorite Barbecue ~ Goode Co. Texas Bar-B-Que

Favorite Breakfast ~ The Buffalo Grille

Favorite Burger ~ Becks Prime

Favorite Coffeehouse ~ Empire Cafe

Favorite Houston Food Blog ~ Cook’s Tour

Favorite Food Truck/Cart ~ Little Miss Cupcake

Favorite Late Night Spot ~ House of Pies

Favorite Mixologist ~ Sean Beck

Favorite Outdoor Dining ~ Backstreet Cafe

Favorite Supermarket ~ Central Market

Favorite Pub or Bar ~ Anvil

Favorite Sweets/Ice Cream ~ The Chocolate Bar

Favorite Wine Seller ~ Spec’s

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2010 HOUSTON CULINARY AWARDS/2

This year's event was held at the Hilton University of Houston's newly renovated ballroom, which allowed for a larger number of guests to join in this event, which has been called by some "the Oscars of Houston restaurant awards." It also allowed for students from the highly regarded Conrad N. Hilton School of Hotel & Restaurant Management to work side-by-side with some of the city's best chefs and service people working in the industry today.

The menu for the evening was created by a phenomenal committee of Houston chefs, led by **John Sheely** of Mockingbird Bistro Wine Bar: **Mark Cox** of Mark's American Cuisine, **Randy Evans** of Haven, **Monica Pope** of t'afia, **Robert Del Grande** of RDG+Bar Annie and Cafe Express, **Michael Cordua** of Americas and Churrascos, **Claire Smith** of Shade and Canopy and pastry chef **Rebecca Masson**, with bread provided by **Heath Wendell** of Slow Dough Bread Co. The chefs were welcomed and assisted by **Abass Jaffari**, executive chef of the Hilton University of Houston.

This year, the magazine proudly bestowed its 12th annual Legends of Houston Restaurants Award to the Mandola brothers – restaurateurs Vincent Mandola, Tony Mandola and Damian Mandola. The native Houstonians are each successful, award-winning restaurateurs who, along with many branches of their family tree, have made a lasting impact on the local restaurant scene and become a restaurant dynasty for Houston. In honor of their award, Sunday, October 3, 2010 was officially proclaimed "**MANDOLA FAMILY DAY**" in the city of Houston by Mayor Annise Parker.

Sponsors of the 2010 Houston Culinary Awards include *My Table* magazine, Sysco Corporation, Republic National Distributing Co., William Grant & Sons, Central Market, A La Carte Food Service Consulting Group, Oak Farms Dairy, Houston Wine Merchant, Copy.com, KUHF•88.7 FM Houston Public Radio, The Grand Wine & Food Affair, Par Excellence Hospitality Staffing, *Health & Fitness Sports Magazine*, *Houston Chronicle* 29-95.com and *SideDish*, *My Table* magazine's twice-weekly e-newsletter.

On June 22, 2010, a nominating committee composed of local food writers, restaurant-industry professionals and dedicated foodies gathered in the community room at Central Market to discuss, vote on and present the slate of finalists honored on Sunday evening. This year also debuted the Houston Foodie Star Awards, a more casual line-up of 15 categories that recognizes local businesses and people, including Favorite Ethnic Restaurant, Favorite Bakery, Favorite Houston Food Blogger, Favorite Food Truck, etc. Finalists in all categories were posted for online voting at www.HoustonCulinaryAwards.com by the general public. In fact, more than 7,000 votes were received!

The Houston Culinary Awards were founded in 1997 to recognize and honor local chefs, restaurants and restaurateurs exhibiting high standards and likely to make a lasting impact for years to come. In its first two years, four awards were presented; the list expanded to 10 awards in 1999, and this year the 15 Foodie Star Awards were added.

Launched in June of 1994, *My Table* is a critical guide to dining out and dining well in Greater Houston. Publisher/Editor Teresa Byrne-Dodge is a nationally renowned food/restaurant writer who has written for publications such as *The New York Times*, *Food & Wine*, *The Houston Post* and *Texas Monthly*. Each issue is packed with restaurant reviews, news, industry gossip, feature stories, listings and tips that help diners get the most enjoyment for their dining-out dollar. Though it began as a modest 12-page newsletter, the award-winning *My Table* has grown to 64-plus pages.

For more information on the Houston Culinary Awards, contact Paula Murphy at 713/520-7111.

2010 HOUSTON CULINARY AWARDS FINALISTS

** Denotes 2010 winner*

RESTAURATEUR OF THE YEAR

Alex Brennan-Martin (Brennan's, Bistro Alex)*
Elouise Adams Jones (Ouisie's Table)
Schiller-Del Grande (Cafe Annie, The Grove, etc.)
Tracy Vaught (Backstreet Cafe, Hugo's, Trevisio)
Marco Wiles (Da Marco, Dolce Vita, Poscól)

CHEF OF THE YEAR

Chris Shepherd (Catalan)*
David Denis (Le Mistral)
Randy Evans (Haven)
Kiran Verma (Kiran's)
Marco Wiles (Da Marco)

UP-AND-COMING CHEF OF THE YEAR

(age 35 or younger)

David Cordúa, 28 (Americas)*
Justin Bayse, 30 (Stella Sola)
David Grossman, 32 (Branch Water Tavern)
Ryan Pera, 34 (The Grove)
L.J. Wiley, 32 (Yelapa)

OUTSTANDING WINE SERVICE

The Tasting Room*
Mark's American Cuisine
Mockingbird Bistro Wine Bar
Valentino
Vic & Anthony's

PASTRY CHEF OF THE YEAR

(includes bakers)

Ruben Ortega (Hugo's, Backstreet Cafe)*
Sara Brook (The Dessert Gallery)
Robert & Louis Wu (French Riviera Bakery)
Robert Jucker (3 Brothers)
Armando Ramirez (Benjy's)

OUTSTANDING BAR SERVICE

Capital Grille*
Marfreless
Mo's, A Place for Steaks
Red Lion Pub
Truluck's Steak & Stone Crab

SERVICE PERSON OF THE YEAR

(includes dining room managers)

Sean Beck (Backstreet Cafe, Hugo's, Trevisio)*
Hector Andrade (Mockingbird Bistro)
Antonio Gianola (Catalan)
Mary Donna Mocerri (Grotto)
Jon Paul (The Steakhouse, Galveston)

HOUSTON CLASSIC

(a restaurant in business for 10 or more years)

Carrabba's*
Backstreet Cafe
Churrascos
Ninfa's on Navigation
Tony's

BEST INTERIOR DESIGN

Américas (The Woodlands)*
Eddie V's
Gigi's
Masraff's
Soma

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

(must have opened since June 1, 2009)

Haven*
Bistro Alex
RDG + Bar Annie
Valentino
Zelko Bistro

2010 LEGENDS OF HOUSTON

RESTAURANT AWARD HONOREES

The Mandola Brothers – Vincent, Tony & Damian

2010 HOUSTON FOODIE STAR AWARDS FINALISTS

** Denotes 2010 winner*

Favorite Ethnic

Fadi's Mediterranean Grill (Middle Eastern)*
Cafe Pita+ (Bosnian)
Darband Shishkabob (Persian/Iranian)
Himalayan Restaurant (Pakistani)
Huynh (Vietnamese)
La Guadalupana (Mexican)
Vieng Thai (Thai)

Favorite Bakery

French Riviera Bakery & Cafe*
Croissant Brioche
El Bolillo
Kraftsmen Baking
Rustika Cafe & Bakery
Slow Dough Bread Co.
Stone Mill Bakers

Favorite Barbecue

Goode Co. Texas Bar-B-Que*
Burns Bar B Q
Lyndon's Pit Bar-B-Q
Pierson & Co. BBQ
Pizzitola's Bar-B-Que
Thelma's Barbecue
Virgie's Bar-B-Que

Favorite Breakfast

The Buffalo Grille*
Barnaby's
Fountainview Cafe
Kenny & Ziggy's
New York Coffee Shop
Tel-Wink Grill
Triple A

Favorite Burger

Becks Prime*
Bubba's Texas Burger Shack
Christian's Tailgate
Hubcap Burger Grill
Lankford Grocery
Little Big's
Sam's Deli-Diner

Favorite Coffeehouse

Empire Cafe*
Agora
Antidote Coffee
Brasil
Catalina
Inversion Coffee House
Tuscany Premium Coffee

Favorite Houston Food Blog

Cook's Tour (Alison Cook)*
Blue Jean Gourmet (Nishta Mehra)
Guns & Tacos (Jay Rascoe)
H Town Chow Down (Albert Nurick)
Houston Foodie (J.C. Reid)
She Eats (Katharine Shilcutt)
Texas Eats (Robb Walsh)

Favorite Food Truck/Cart

Little Miss Cupcake*
Bansuri Indian Food Corner
El Tacambaro
Fusion Taco
Karanchos
Melange Crêperie
Tacos Tierra Caliente

Favorite Late Night Spot

(serves food after 11 pm)
House of Pies*
59 Diner
Bibas One's-a-Meal
Hollywood Vietnamese & Chinese
Katz's Deli
Spanish Flowers
Tan Tan

Favorite Mixologist

Sean Beck (Hugo's, Backstreet Cafe, Trevisio)*
Bobby Heugel (Anvil)
Evan Turner (Branch Water Tavern)
Michael Wells (Marfreless)
Anthony Montz (Hearsay Gastro Lounge)
George Pitner (Red Lion Pub)
Claire Sprouse (Beaver's)

Favorite Outdoor Dining

Backstreet Cafe*

Artista

Brennan's of Houston

Crappito's

Grappino di Nino

Ouisie's Table

The Grove

Favorite Supermarket

Central Market*

Hubbell & Hudson

Mi Tienda

Phoenicia Specialty Foods

Rice Epicurean Market

Super H Mart

Whole Foods

Favorite Pub or Bar

Anvil*

Black Lab Pub

Marfreless

Pearl Bar

Poison Girl

Red Lion Pub

West Alabama Ice House

Favorite Sweets/Ice Cream

The Chocolate Bar*

Crave Cupcakes

Dessert Gallery

Gelato Blu

Hank's Ice Cream Parlor

Michael's Cookie Jar

Sprinkles

Amy's Ice Cream

Favorite Wine Seller

Spec's*

13 Celsius

Block 7

Houston Wine Merchant

Sonoma Retail Wine Bar & Boutique

The Tasting Room

Vine Wine Room