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**JAMES
BEARD
FOUNDATION**

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James Beard Foundation Announces Changes to Three 2013 Awards Categories

Entries can now be submitted online at jamesbeard.org/awards

New York, NY (October 23, 2012) –The James Beard Foundation has announced changes and additions to their award categories for the culinary industry’s most prestigious honors.

The James Beard Book Committee has chosen, for the first time ever, to allow the entry of electronic books due to growth within the industry as well as the increased sales, which are climbing at a rate much faster than that for traditional books. The committee recognizes that the e-book is now an incredibly viable format for important food writing and should be allowed consideration in the awards. “Electronic publishing is developing rapidly and it’s bound to attract creative, thoughtful writers and publishers,” said Matt Sartwell, Head of the Book Committee. “We want to hear from them in the same way that we’ve been hearing from the best authors of printed books over the last three decades.”

Starting with the 2013 awards, e-books will be considered in the same categories as print books in order to put an emphasis on the fact that they are being recognized for the quality of the content and overall positive reader’s experience. “The James Beard Book Awards are designed to recognize excellence, and we’ll be looking for it regardless of whether it comes on paper or on a screen,” stated Sartwell. Electronic books will be accepted in any format which can be viewed using freely available software which operates in all commonly used operating systems. Entries which require the purchase of a specific brand of viewing device will not be accepted. Additionally, a work may only be submitted in one format.

Additional changes to the **2013 James Beard Foundation Awards** include an evolution of the Restaurant Design category, which will now recognize the two different scales of restaurant design and character.

“The Restaurant Design Award acknowledges the growing importance of good design in all types of dining establishments,” said Brooke Hodge, *New York Times* Design Writer and Chair of the James Beard Foundation’s

Restaurant Design Committee. "These two new awards will allow us to recognize and reward a broader range of design talent."

Furthermore, the committee has decided to unify design submissions, which will now be considered extensively in two categories: Restaurants of 76 seats and over; and Restaurants of 75 seats and under. Architecture, Interior Design, Graphic Design, and all other design aspects of a restaurant will now be considered comprehensively in each submission for restaurant design.

As previously reported in June 2012, there have been changes to the Restaurant and Best Chef Awards categories. The following changes were made, beginning in 2013, Chefs in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will be eligible to enter the "Best Chef South" Award and/ or the national awards, and Nevada will join with Hawaii to form the new Western region of "Best Chef West."

The deadlines for entries are as follows:

- Book Awards – December 17, 2012
- Restaurant and Chefs Awards – December 31, 2012
- Journalism – January 9, 2013
- Design – January 9, 2013
- Broadcast Media – January 9, 2013

Entries can now be submitted online at www.jamesbeard.org/awards. A full list of the 2013 James Beard Foundation Awards programs and categories are also available.

The Awards are open to any industry professional who meets the criteria. Nominees will be announced on March 18, 2013 in Charleston, South Carolina. James Beard Foundation membership is not required for participation in the nomination process or to win an Award. Ballot tabulation is handled by Lutz and Carr, an independent accounting firm.

The James Beard Foundation Books, Broadcast, and Journalism Awards will be held on May 3, 2013 in New York City. The James Beard Foundation Awards Gala will be presented on May 6, 2013 at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall in New York City.

For more information about the James Beard Foundation Awards, please contact Yvon Ros at 212.627.2090 or email yros@jamesbeard.org.

About the James Beard Foundation

Founded in 1986, the James Beard Foundation is dedicated to celebrating, nurturing, and preserving America's diverse culinary heritage and future. A cookbook author and teacher, James Beard was a champion of American cuisine who helped educate and mentor generations of professional chefs and food enthusiasts. Today, the Beard Foundation continues in the same spirit by offering a variety of events and programs designed to educate, inspire, entertain, and foster a deeper understanding of our culinary culture. These programs include educational initiatives, food industry awards, an annual national food conference, Leadership Awards program, culinary scholarships, and

publications. In addition to maintaining the historic James Beard House in New York City's Greenwich Village as a "performance space" for visiting chefs, the Foundation has created a robust online community, and hosts tastings, lectures, workshops, and food-related art exhibits in New York City and around the country.

For more information, please visit www.jamesbeard.org. Find insights on food at the James Beard Foundation's blog *Delights & Prejudices*. Join the James Beard Foundation on Facebook. Follow the James Beard Foundation on Twitter.

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