

For Immediate Release

JamesBeard Foundation

INTRODUCING THE JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION'S TASTE AMERICA® 2024-2025 TASTETWENTY CLASS

Launching July 2024, the Taste America national event series lineup will feature an exceptional new cohort of TasteTwenty chefs—an annual selection of the “ones to watch”—recognized for their culinary talent and impact they have on the industry

NEW YORK, NY (May 16, 2024) - The [James Beard Foundation](#)® announces the 2024-2025 lineup of exciting TasteTwenty chefs, an annual selection of “ones to watch” in the industry—who will be highlighted over the course of the national [Taste America](#) series, [presented by Capital One](#), held across 20 U.S. cities. Through the *TasteTwenty*, the Foundation is recognizing some of the industry’s finest talent and changemakers—known for demonstrating culinary excellence, as well as their impact uniquely leading the industry forward on and off the plate. **Taste America events will launch in New York City on Wednesday, July 24, with all 2024-2025 TasteTwenty chefs in attendance**, representing the James Beard Foundation’s mission of Good Food for Good® and showcasing their cooking through delicious bites.

"We're thrilled to announce the 2024-2025 lineup for the upcoming Taste America series, featuring another phenomenal group of TasteTwenty chefs," said Siobhan Flaherty Haber, Vice President of Events at the James Beard Foundation. "This year's TasteTwenty cohort exemplifies culinary excellence, innovation, and a commitment to positive societal impact. Their remarkable talents and dedication to their craft and communities inspire us, and we're honored to showcase their remarkable work on a national stage."

Launching in July 2024 and running through March 2025, this year’s series expands to include 10 major walk-around tastings with food and beverage stations from a *TasteTwenty* host chef and local guest chefs, as well as 10 pop-dinners featuring a one-of-a-kind, multi-course menu with wine pairings and cocktails. Menus at all events promise a delectable evening benefiting the Foundation’s industry-focused mission and programs. Over the course of the series, Taste America will highlight over 100 leading chefs, celebrate the richness and diversity of local food culture, and offer participants a window into the tastes and traditions shaping American food today.

Each special event hosted by a *TasteTwenty* chef in their home city will celebrate the positive impact chefs have in their communities and industry at-large. From investing in their workers to supporting sustainable agriculture, showcasing quality ingredients or using their restaurant as a platform to advocate for meaningful change, and more—this year’s cohort of chefs are leaders helping to shape the future of the independent restaurant industry.

Presented by [Capital One](#), Taste America celebrates the local independent restaurants at the heart of their communities, bringing together chefs and food lovers for unique and delicious culinary experiences while celebrating the Foundation's mission of Good Food for Good®.

Presenting the 2024-2025 cohort of TasteTwenty chefs:

- James Beard Award Nominee **Omar Anani**, *Saffron De Twah*, Detroit, MI
- James Beard Award Nominee **Janet Becerra**, *Pancita*, Seattle, WA
- James Beard Award Nominee **Valerie Chang**, *Maty's*, Miami, FL
- James Beard Award Nominee, **Emmanuel Chavez**, *Tatemó*, Houston, TX
- **Marissa Caruana**, *Linger*, Denver, CO
- **Lena Ciardullo**, *Union Square Cafe*, New York, NY
- **Raúl Correa**, *Bacoa Finca & Fogón*, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- JBF Chef Bootcamp alum **Nelson German**, *alaMar Dominican Kitchen* and *Sobre Mesa Afro-Latin Cocktail Lounge*, Oakland, CA
- James Beard Award Semifinalist, **Jerome Grant**, *Mahal BBQ*, Washington D.C.
- James Beard Award Semifinalist **Donald Hawk**, *Valentine*, Phoenix, AZ
- James Beard Award Nominee, **Lord Maynard Llera**, *Kuya Lord*, Los Angeles, CA
- **Silver Iocovozzi**, *Neng Jr, 's*, Asheville, NC
- **Geronimo Lopez**, *BOTIKA*, San Antonio, TX
- James Beard Award Nominee and JBF Chef Bootcamp alum, **Katy Millard**, *Coquine*, Portland, OR
- James Beard Award Nominee **Serigne Mbaye**, *Dakar NOLA*, New Orleans, LA
- **Margaret Pak**, *Thattu*, Chicago, IL
- James Beard Award Nominee **Cassie Piuma**, *Sarma*, Boston, MA
- James Beard Award Semifinalist **Randy Rucker**, *River Twice*, Philadelphia, PA
- **Fernando Ruiz**, *Escondido*, Santa Fe, NM
- James Beard Award Semifinalist **Mailea Weger**, *Lou*, Nashville, TN

Presenting the 2024-2025 lineup of cities:

Events On Sale Now

Summer 2024

July 24 Walk Around Tasting: New York City, NY

- Feat. the full lineup of *TasteTwenty* chefs; hosted by NYC *TasteTwenty* Chef Lena Ciardullo, *Union Square Cafe*

August 6 Walk Around Tasting: Los Angeles, CA

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Lord Maynard Llera, *Kuya Lord*

August 21 Pop-Up Dinner: Asheville, NC

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Silver Iocovozzi, *Neng Jr, 's*

Dates To Be Announced

September 2024

Walk Around Tasting: Houston, TX

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Emmanuel Chavez, *Tatemó*

Pop-Up Dinner: Washington, D.C.

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Jerome Grant, *Mahal BBQ*

Walk Around Tasting: Portland, OR

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Katy Millard, *Coquine*

October 2024

Pop-Up Dinner: Miami, FL

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Valerie Chang, *Maty's*

Walk Around Tasting: New Orleans, LA

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Serigne Mbay, *Dakar NOLA*

Walk Around Tasting: Seattle, WA

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Janet Becerra, *Pancita*

November 2024

Pop-Up Dinner: Denver, CO

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Marissa Caruana, *Linger*

Pop-Up Dinner: Santa Fe, NM

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Fernando Ruiz, *Escondido*

February 2025

Walk Around Tasting: Boston, MA

- feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Cassie Piuma, *Sarma*

Pop-Up Dinner: Phoenix, AZ

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Donald Hawk, *Valentine*

Pop-Up Dinner: Detroit, MI

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Omar Anani, *Saffron De Twah*

Walk Around Tasting: San Francisco, CA

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Nelson German, *alaMar Dominican Kitchen* and *Sobre Mesa Afro-Latin Cocktail Lounge*

Walk Around Tasting: Nashville, TN

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Mailea Weger, *Lou*

March 2025

Pop-Up Dinner: Chicago, IL

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Margaret Pak, *Thattu*

Pop-Up Dinner: San Antonio, TX

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Geronimo Lopez, *BOTIKA*

Pop-Up Dinner: San Juan, PR

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Raúl Correa, *Bacoa Finca & Fogón*

Walk Around Tasting: Philadelphia, PA

- Feat. *TasteTwenty* Chef Randy Rucker, *River Twice*

The series will kick off in New York City on Wednesday, July 24 with a walk-around tasting open to the public at [Tribeca 360°](#), featuring mouthwatering food and beverage stations from the entire lineup of *TasteTwenty* chefs. The afternoon prior, the *TasteTwenty* will also come together for a dedicated James Beard Foundation advocacy training session, in support of a more sustainable and equitable future for the food system.

Attending a Taste America event will be a special opportunity to become part of the Foundation's vibrant and constantly growing national culinary community, comprising food lovers and industry professionals alike. Proceeds from Taste America events benefit the James Beard Foundation's national impact programming in support of equity, sustainability, women's leadership, and a future where all can thrive for the culinary industry and beyond.

Tickets for Taste America events taking place this summer are now on sale for the New York tasting (Wednesday, July 24); Los Angeles tasting (Tuesday, August 6); and Asheville, NC dinner (Wednesday, August 21). For more information visit, jamesbeard.org/tasteamerica.

As the official credit card and banking partner of the James Beard Foundation, eligible Capital One cardholders have early access to tickets and special onsite perks through [Capital One Entertainment](#) while supplies last.

PRESS ASSETS

- 2024-2025 TasteTwenty chef headshots [available here](#)
- Taste America event selects [available here](#) (please credit the photographer listed in file details).

The James Beard Foundation® is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to celebrate, support, and elevate the people behind America's food culture and champion a standard of good food anchored in talent, equity, and sustainability. For information on the Foundation's programs and initiatives, please visit jamesbeard.org.

The James Beard Foundation's Taste America® is presented by Capital One, the official credit card and banking partner of the James Beard Foundation. Through this first-of-its-kind partnership, eligible Capital One cardholders can enjoy exclusive access to James Beard Foundation programming. Taste America is also supported by Premier Sponsor: American Airlines, the official airline of the James Beard Foundation, Deloitte; Patron Sponsors: Choose Chicago, Illinois Restaurant Association; with Additional Support from: Mountain Valley Spring Water, VerTerra Dinnerware, Windstar Cruises, the official cruise line of the James Beard Foundation; and Founding Partner: Bowen & Company.

ABOUT THE JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION

The James Beard Foundation (JBF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that celebrates and supports the people behind America's food culture, while pushing for new standards in the restaurant industry to create a future where all have the opportunity to thrive. Established over 30 years ago, the Foundation has highlighted the centrality of food culture in our daily lives and is committed to supporting a resilient and flourishing industry that honors its diverse communities. By amplifying new voices, celebrating those leading the way, and supporting those on the path to do so, the Foundation is working to create a more equitable and sustainable future—what we call Good Food for Good®. JBF brings its mission to life through the annual Awards, industry and community-focused programs, advocacy, partnerships, and events across the country. For the first time in the Foundation's history, exceptional culinary talent, industry leaders, and visitors from NYC and beyond can experience unforgettable dining and educational programming at [Platform by JBF](#)—inspiring food and beverage devotees for decades to come. Learn more at jamesbeard.org, sign up for our newsletter, and follow @beardfoundation on social media.

ABOUT CAPITAL ONE

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Contact:

MMGY Wagstaff
jbf@wagstaffmktg.com