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**NEWS RELEASES**

## StarChefs.com Announces Its 2009 Class of Rising Stars Award Winners

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 /PRNewswire/ -- StarChefs.com(TM), the online magazine for culinary insiders, celebrates the StarChefs.com New York Rising Stars Chef Award winners on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at the *Mandarin Oriental, New York* from 8:00PM-10:30PM. Hosted by *Brandon Kida* of *Asiate*, the walk-around tasting gala is the culmination of the 4th *Annual StarChefs.com International Chefs Congress*. The Rising Star Awards recognize up-and-coming chefs, pastry chefs, sommeliers, and mixologists from around the country that represent future leaders of the national culinary scene. Candidates are nominated by the StarChefs Advisory Board, previous winners, local media, StarChefs' editorial research and through the StarChefs.com website. Winners are chosen by the StarChefs editorial team. Over 70 candidates were considered via in person tastings and interviews. "Our 2009 talents are honing their skills in some of the best kitchens in the country. They are tenacious and doing what it takes to succeed in this challenging economic environment," says Antoinette Bruno, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of StarChefs.com.

The StarChefs 2009 New York Rising Stars Award winners are Chef *George Mendes* of *Aldea*, Chef *Isao Yamada* of *Upstairs at Bouley*, Chef *Patrick Connolly* of *Bobo*, Chef *Damian Sansonetti* of *Bar Boulud*, Chef *Jamison Blankenship* of *Morimoto*, Chef *Jason Neroni* of *10 Downing*, Mixologist *Orson Salicetti* of *Apotheke*, Mixologist *Maxwell Britten* of *Freemans*, Pastry Chef *Brooks Headley* of *Del Posto*, Pastry Chef *Robert Truitt* of *Corton*, Sommelier *Claire Papparazzo* of *Blue Hill*, and Restaurateur *Colin Devlin* of *Dressler, Dumont, and Dumont Burger*. Chef *Harold Dieterle* of *Perilla* is the winner of the Community Award, Chef *Angelo Sosa* of *Xie Xie* is the winner of the Restaurant Concept Award, and Chef *Amanda Cohen* of *Dirt Candy* is the winner of the Sustainability Award.

Tickets are \$150 per person and are available at [www.starchefs.com/risingstars](http://www.starchefs.com/risingstars). VIP tickets are \$200 and include a pre-event reception hosted by *Mandarin Oriental, New York* featuring vintage Nicolas Feuillatte Palmes d'Or Champagne and Petrossian caviar.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Autism Speaks.

National Sponsors of the 2009 StarChefs.com Rising Stars Revue include Jade Range, Vita-Mix, Winston Industries, Trimark, Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte, Highland Park Scotch Whisky, Nordaq Fresh, Stella Artois, WJ Deutsch, and The New York Observer.

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