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**Starchefs.com Names Its 2010 Rising Stars**

By Jonathan Kauffman, Thursday, Feb. 22, 2010 @ 11:44AM  
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Starchefs.com just named the 14 winners of its 2010 "Rising Stars" Awards for the San Francisco Bay Area. The touring awards, which recognize chefs, bartenders (unfortunately titled "mixologists"), and restaurateurs under the age of 40, is always an interesting counterpoint to the national James Beard restaurant awards. Starchef often recognizes the sous chefs, pastry chefs, and chefs de cuisine behind the marquee names, the ones who often run the place.



SPQR's Matthew Accarrino is on the rise.

According to the Starchefs Web site, the Rising Star awards travel from city to city every year, profiling four different cities each time. (The last time Starchefs hit San Francisco was 2007, though last year it honored Napa and Sonoma pros). Nominations apparently come from chefs, previous winners, food writers, and other interested parties. The judges then come to the city to interview 50-60 nominees and taste their food or drinks.

The awards will be celebrated with several events: a speaking panel featuring past award winners on June 14, followed by a public gala and industry-only afterparty on June 16. This year's winners after the jump:

- Chefs**  
 Matthew Accarrino, SPQR  
 John Paul Carmona, Mauresa  
 Maximilian DiMare, Wood Tavern  
 Louis Maldonado, Aziza  
 Thomas McNaughton, Flour + Water  
 Scott Nishiyama, Chez TJ

- Pastry Chefs**  
 Melissa Chou, Aziza  
 Catherine Schimenti, Michael Mina

- Mixologists**  
 Erick Castro, Rickhouse  
 Brian MacGregor, Jardinière

- Sommelier**  
 Sarah Valor, Commis

- Concept**  
 Joshua Skenes, Saison

- Restaurateur**  
 Shelley Lindgren, A16 and SPQR

- Hotel Chef**  
 Josh Thomsen, The Claremont Hotel Club & Spa

Congratulations to all.

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 Matthew Accarrino  
 Sonoma  
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