



July 16, 2010

Chefs & Champagne

By Silvia Lehrer

Martha Stewart will be the honored guest at the James Beard annual Chefs & Champagne event on Saturday, July 24, on the sprawling grounds of the Wolffer Estate Vineyard in Sagaponack. This sumptuous tasting party and fundraiser features flowing champagne, a select group of award-winning chefs who will serve up their delectable culinary specialties, and the wines of Wolffer Estate.

"All of us in the food world owe a great debt of gratitude to James Beard, who played such a vital role in establishing a serious culinary tradition in this country," said Martha Stewart, founder of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Inc. "Like James Beard, I know what it takes to create a recipe, to use the very best products America has to offer and to put great food on the tables of all of our families. I am so happy to be recognized at this event which celebrates such great tradition."

Chefs & Champagne is considered the East End's premier culinary event. A select group of top East End chefs will participate, along with several top culinary stars from all over the country. Chefs include: Mark Gerlach, Pastry Chef at Nick & Toni's; Robbin Haas, Executive Chef at The Gulf Coast Kitchen by Robbin Haas at Montauk Yacht Club; and Jason Weiner, Executive Chef of Almond Restaurant.

Funds raised will help to support the James Beard Foundation's mission and programs, including the extensive library and archives of Beardiana. The Foundation will announce the recipient of the Christian Wolffer Scholarship at the event. Established in 2006, the scholarship fund supports students in their study of food and wine.

A silent auction features once-in-a-lifetime fine dining experiences, wines and spirits, cookware and culinary travel packages. Specific auction items include:

Four VIP tickets to a recording of "Martha Stewart Show." After the show you'll have an intimate lunch with her in the greenroom, and take home a gift basket filled with products from the Martha Stewart Collection at Macy's and autographed copies of *Fresh Flavor Fast* and *Martha Stewart's Cupcakes*.

Citarella's Ultimate Dining Basket: Full of goodies from this fine food purveyor including Citarella olive oil and balsamic vinegar, Genoa salami, cookies, biscotti, coffee, etc., a \$25 Citarella gift card, and a \$150 dining gift certificate for Fulton—an intimate seafood restaurant located on Manhattan's waterfront.

Four Seasons Hotel and L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon: You and a guest will spend the night high above the hustle and bustle of the city in a Deluxe King Room at the elegant Four Seasons. Also included in this package is dinner with a bottle of wine at the intimate L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon, and four tickets to the Radio City Christmas Spectacular with the Rockettes.

Can't make it to the event this year? Or, want to preview all the booty and jump-start your bidding for July 24?

Online bidding is now available through July 23 for this selection of the once-in-a-lifetime food, wine and travel offerings available at the silent auction.

The main event will take place from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and is open to the public. Reservations are \$195 for Foundation members and \$250 for non-members. General admission includes all chef tastings, champagne and wine, silent auction bidding opportunities and gift bag. V.I.P. premium tables are available for \$350/person or \$3000/table, and includes exclusive one-hour access to all tastings, reserved table seating, silent auction preview, VIP gift bag and an after-party catered by Citarella. For further information and reservations call 212-627-2308 or visit jamesbeard.org/chefsandchampagne.