

PRESS RELEASE

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CALLING ALL LEGENDS!

Applications Now Available for the 2012 Laura Hewitt Culinary Legend Award

CHARLESTON, SC – December 7, 2011– The 2012 **BB&T Charleston Wine + Food Festival**® is seeking nominations for the **Laura Hewitt Culinary Legend Award**, to be bestowed on Friday, March 2, 2012 during the Festival's official Opening Ceremonies. The award honors an individual or organization that has excelled in the culinary community of Charleston or has contributed to the Lowcountry cuisine of Charleston.

The recipient will receive the following:

- The esteemed honor of the Official Laura Hewitt Culinary Legend Award
- Recognition on the Official Festival website
- Recognition in press materials
- Recognition at the Festival Opening Ceremonies on Friday, March 2, 2012 at 11:00 am

Nominated individuals must be a current or past resident of the Tri-county area and 18 years or older. The nomination process is open to the public, free of charge, and self-nomination is permitted. Applications must be submitted either via email to legends@charlestonwineandfood.com or by mail to P.O. Box 22823, Charleston, SC 29413 no later than Friday, January 13, 2012.

The 2011 award winner was longtime restaurateur Marta Lou Gadsden of Martha Lou's Kitchen. Past award winners include: Charleston Grill General Manager Mickey Bakst, John Taylor, "Hoppin' John," The American Culinary Federation – Charleston Chapter, Chef Brett McKee, The Sustainable Seafood Initiative, Richard Elliot, Chef Robert Carter and the Charleston Restaurant Association.

Applications are available at www.charlestonwineandfood.com/about-the-festival/get-involved/ or by emailing media@charlestonwineandfood.com.

The annual BB&T Charleston Wine + Food Festival®, March 1-4, 2012, celebrates the best that the city of Charleston, SC has to offer; a local food culture rich in tradition, James Beard award-winning chefs, and the best city to visit in the U.S., according to *Condé Nast Traveler's* 2011 Readers' Choice Awards. The four-day event, praised as one of the top five food and wine festivals in the U.S. by *Forbes Traveler*, infuses home-grown flavor with the most celebrated chefs, culinary professionals, and winemakers in the world. The Festival, a non-profit organization, benefits local culinary charities and scholarships. For more information about the Festival, visit www.charlestonwineandfood.com or call (843) 727-9998.

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