



CONTACT

Mayra Cardenas
Powerhaus / 954 732 6382
mayra@power-haus.com

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Maison Blanche Creates its First James Beard Foundation Scholarship
Funded With Proceeds from the First Annual Fête du Beaujolais**

December 8th, 2011, Longboat Key Florida – Chef Jose Martinez, a Michelin Star winner, James Beard Nominee for Best Chef (South), and proprietor of [Maison Blanche](#), rated by ZAGAT® 2012 as the best restaurant on Longboat Key, announced today that the first annual Fête du Beaujolais celebration at the restaurant on November 17th 2011 raised over \$2,500 to fund the first Jose & Victoria Martinez Culinary [Scholarship for the James Beard Foundation](#).

The Fete du Beaujolais celebrated the arrival of the 2011 vintage of Beaujolais.

“ I believe [The James Beard Foundation](#) is the wellspring of America's culinary community” said Chef Martinez, “ I am elated to be a proactive participant with the institution dedicated to nurturing, and preserving America’s diverse culinary heritage and future.”

The James Beard Foundation Scholarship program helps aspiring culinary students realize their dreams by supporting them on a path to success in the rewarding world of the hospitality industry.

About Maison Blanche

Praised by foodies and visitors as Sarasota’s best, the chef has a Michelin Star for his Paris restaurant, is a James Beard Foundation nominee for Best Chef (South), a Longboat Key leading Zagat food rating of 27 and a 96% of positive survey responders. The room is designed by award winning architect, Franck Hammoutene in subtle homage to American mid-century in striking contemporary white minimalism accented by gray leather seating. The wine list has an award of excellence and the dining room and staff is overseen by wife Victoria who, with impeccable grace and care, attends to every detail, matching her husband’s passion for perfection. Maison Blanche offers progressive French cuisine, a savory balance of classical French cookery with modern American influences. Your Maison Blanche occasion is brought to life in a sophisticated menu featuring “Farm & Field to Table” local ingredients as available. Your Maison Blanche dinner is a truly memorable experience. Dining Style: Casual Elegant, Cuisine: French, Seafood, Website: www.themaisonblanche.com Phone: (941) 383-8088, offering Dinner: Tuesday - Sunday: 5:30pm - 9:30pm. Maison Blanche provides free and ample self parking, in a private lot for all our diners.



About the James Beard Foundation

The James Beard Foundation is a national not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in New York City. The James Beard Foundation is at the center of America's culinary community, dedicated to exploring the way food enriches our lives. For detailed information on the Foundation and other matters go to: <http://www.jamesbeard.org>

The James Beard Foundation Scholarships

For information and details including scholarships, the selection and award process and other James Beard Foundation Scholarship information go to: [James Beard Foundation Scholarships.](#)

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