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James Beard Foundation's Taste America® "Local Flavor from Coast to Coast" Traveling Food Festival Comes to Las Vegas This Fall
- Tickets on Sale Now -

Food Enthusiasts and Chase Sapphire Preferred Visa Signature Cardholders Are Invited to Join Taste America All-Star Masaharu Morimoto to Taste and Enjoy America's Culinary Diversity September 27-28

LAS VEGAS, NV – Tickets are now on sale for **The James Beard Foundation's Taste America®: "Local Flavor from Coast To Coast,"** a national traveling food festival which will visit Las Vegas on **Friday, September 27** and **Saturday, September 28**. The five-weekend festival will visit 10 cities from September 20 through October 19, 2013. Taste America will showcase culinary all-stars and public events exploring the nation's unique range of local cuisines in Las Vegas along with nine other cities including Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Francisco, and Washington D.C. Taste America is presented by the [James Beard Foundation](#) (JBF) in partnership with [Chase Sapphire Preferred® Visa Signature®](#).

A weekend-long tour, Las Vegas' Taste America festivities will kick-off on Friday, September 27 with a variety of free culinary consumer events throughout the city (from Downtown Las Vegas to Summerlin), and culminate in an exclusive dining event at [The Mirage Hotel & Casino](#) the evening of Saturday, September 28. A spectacular poolside gala tasting and reception, "A Taste of America" will be co-hosted by **Taste America All-Star, Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto** (proprietor, Morimoto Restaurants) and Host Chef Christian Schmidt (The Mirage, Las Vegas). The event will also feature delectable dishes and cocktails from several of Las Vegas' most celebrated local chefs, including James Beard Award winner François Payard (Payard), Paul Bartolotta (Bartolotta Ristorante di Mare), Saipin Chutima (Lotus of Siam), Luciano Pellegrini (Valentino), Eric Klein (Spago), Brian Massie (The Light Group), Laurent Tourondel (BLT Burger), Akira Back (Yellowtail Bellagio), Malcolm Mitchell (Mint Gastro Pub), Adam Arencibia (Japonais) and more.

Tickets for "A Taste of America" are now available for purchase at jbftasteamerica.org, and are priced at \$120 per person, all-inclusive for the Mirage Tasting Event. The chef and champagne event is an added \$75.00 and includes an afternoon tasting at Yellowtail Japanese Restaurant & Lounge on the Bellagio fountains. The James Beard Foundation is proud to donate a portion of the evening's proceeds to The Epicurean Charitable Foundation.

The Taste America culinary agenda for Las Vegas includes:

Friday, September 27

1:00 p.m.: **Bellagio Yellowtail Restaurant – Champagne, Sparkling, and Chefs** (3600 Las Vegas Blvd S)
An afternoon of bubbly and heavenly creations from James Beard Award nominee **Akira Back**

Saturday, September 28

10:00 a.m.: **Sur La Table at Fashion Show Mall** (3200 S Las Vegas Blvd #1175)
This full day of free consumer retail events features in-store chef appearances, from local artisans and producers as well as two very special cooking demonstrations and book signings. Chef demos

are ticketed events and kitchen space is limited. Pick up free tickets in store at Sur La Table now, and visit jbfasteamerica.org/event/las-vegas for further information.

- 11:30 a.m.:** **Macy's at Fashion Show Mall (Men's Wing)** - Cooking demonstration with JBF Award winner François Payard
- 12:30 p.m.:** **Sur La Table** – Book signing with François Payard, *Chocolate Epiphany*
- 2:00 p.m.:** **Macy's at Fashion Show Mall (Men's Wing)** - Cooking demonstration with All-Star Masaharu Morimoto, Iron Chef and proprietor of Morimoto Restaurants
- 3:00 p.m.:** **Sur La Table** - Book signing with Masaharu Morimoto, *Morimoto: The New Art of Japanese Cooking*
- 8:00 p.m.:** **“A Taste of America” Poolside Reception at The Mirage** (3400 South Las Vegas Blvd) Co-hosted by Taste America All-Star Masaharu Morimoto and Host Chef Christian Schmidt, the evening will include a tasting reception featuring delectable dishes and cocktails from several of Las Vegas' finest restaurants at The Mirage's award-winning pool. The ladies of FANTASY, the popular show at Luxor Hotel and Casino, will heat things up with a poolside performance. Immediately following the reception, VIP ticket holders will have access to an exclusive after party at 1 OAK nightclub.

“The Taste America traveling food festival will shine a light on the dynamic culinary cities across the country,” said Susan Ungaro, president of the James Beard Foundation. “Our Taste America chefs will be working with local farmers and artisanal producers of everything from cheese to chocolate. With the support of Chase Sapphire Preferred Visa Signature, we are now able to bring together the best innovators in our food world to educate and entertain Americans about local flavors from coast to coast.”

The James Beard Foundation's Taste America is presented by Chase Sapphire Preferred Visa Signature, a premier rewards credit card for people who love travel and dining. Chase Sapphire Preferred Visa Signature cardholders will enjoy exclusive benefits not available to the public at James Beard Foundation's Taste America events, including access to chefs, recipes, preferred seating, and more.

The James Beard Foundation's Taste America is supported by retail partner, Sur La Table, national media partner, *Every Day with Rachael Ray*, and national sponsors including Breville, Delta Air Lines, The Gulf Oyster Industry Council, and Lurpak® butter.

For more information about Taste America events in Las Vegas, please contact Alan Semsar (702) 50-WINE-6 or visit jbfasteamerica.org/event/las-vegas.

[Click to tweet:](#) Tickets on sale for @beardfoundation Taste America event @TheMirageLV Sept. 27-28. #Vegas

About the James Beard Foundation:

Founded in 1986, the James Beard Foundation's mission is to celebrate, nurture, and honor America's diverse culinary heritage through programs that educate and inspire. A cookbook author and teacher with an encyclopedic knowledge about food, James Beard, who died in 1985, was a champion of American cuisine. He helped educate and mentor generations of professional chefs and food enthusiasts, instilling in them the value of wholesome, healthful and delicious food. Today the Beard Foundation continues in the same spirit by administering a number of diverse programs that include educational initiatives, food industry awards, scholarships for culinary students, publications, chef advocacy training, and thought-leader convening. The Foundation also maintains the historic James Beard House in New York City's Greenwich Village as a “performance space” for visiting chefs. In September of 2012, the Foundation launched the Diplomatic Culinary Partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Office of Protocol and helped create the American Chef Corps as a way to champion American chefs abroad, promote American food products and foster an interest in American culinary culture and history through international programs and initiatives. For more information, please visit www.jamesbeard.org. Find insights on food at the James Beard Foundation's blog [Delights & Prejudices](#). Join the James Beard Foundation on [Facebook](#). Follow the James Beard Foundation on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Chase Sapphire Preferred:

Chase Sapphire Preferred is a premier rewards credit card for people who are passionate about travel and dining. With Sapphire Preferred you enjoy premium travel rewards and benefits with no travel restrictions or blackout dates on airfare booked through Ultimate Rewards, double points for every dollar spent on dining and travel, no foreign transaction fees, 1:1 point transfer to leading frequent travel programs, 24/7 live customer service, access to exclusive cardholder experiences and more. More information is available at www.ChaseSapphire.com.

About The Mirage:

Ideally located in the center of the famed Las Vegas Strip, The Mirage is the place to stay and play. The resort features contemporary AAA Four Diamond accommodations; dynamic nightlife venues including 1 OAK Nightclub and The Beatles REVOLUTION Lounge; tantalizing restaurants created by the world's most renowned chefs including Tom Colicchio's Heritage Steak (opening August 2013) and Masaharu Morimoto's Morimoto (opening early 2014); a luxurious spa and salon; the enticing Bare pool lounge; and 170,000 square feet of meeting and convention space. Unique entertainment options include The Beatles LOVE by Cirque du Soleil celebrating the musical legacy of The Beatles; the Aces of Comedy series featuring one of the most comprehensive and diverse comedic line-ups nationwide; Terry Fator: The Voice of Entertainment; four-time GRAMMY Award-winning R&B musical sensation Boyz II Men; and the lush animal sanctuary of Siegfried & Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat. From the iconic Volcano and 20,000-gallon lobby aquarium to the lush tropical atrium and pool, guests experience an exotic world-class destination unlike any other. The Mirage is a wholly owned subsidiary of MGM Resorts International (NYSE: MGM). For more information and reservations, visit mirage.com or call toll free at (800) 374-9000 or find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Epicurean Charitable Foundation

Las Vegas Comprised of more than 20 of Las Vegas' top food and beverage and hospitality executives, Epicurean Charitable Foundation of Las Vegas not only awards students with scholarship funds to attend any four-year accredited university of their choice, it also provides mentorship throughout each student's college career and helps to place the students in internships and jobs. 2013 marks the 12th year of ECF and in its tenure the foundation has provided more than \$1 million to local scholars and also more than \$1 million in charitable community grants to such organizations as Make-A-Wish Foundation, Lied Discovery Children's Museum, UNLV Rebel Athletic Foundation, Nevada Blind Children's Foundation, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health and The Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce. Epicurean Charitable Foundation Las Vegas can be reached at 702-932-5098 or by visiting the website. Become a friend on Facebook or follow ECF on Twitter.

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