

For Immediate Release
January 2008



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Food & Wine Magazine Presents Best New Chefs Reunion Dinner[™]

April 9 dinner is highlight of 30th Scottsdale Culinary Festival

Scottsdale, Ariz. – On Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. *Food & Wine Magazine* reunites five culinary giants at Camelback Inn who have all been named the magazine’s “Best New Chefs” throughout the years. The event will feature the combined culinary talents of five previous winners of *Food & Wine*’s annual ranking of up-and-coming chefs, including Chuck Wiley of Café ZuZu in Scottsdale, Gavin Kaysen of Café Boloud in New York, Paul Virant of Vie in Western Springs, IL, and Robert McGrath of restaurant REM in Scottsdale. Chef Laurent Tourondel, the Executive Chef/Partner of BLT Restaurants is the host chef for the evening.

Chef Wiley, with a career spanning more than 30 years, was inducted into the Scottsdale Hall of Fame as Chef Honoree in 2000 and has twice been invited to cook at the James Beard House in New York. Chef Kaysen took first place at Chicago’s Bocuse d’Or, a high-end cooking competition, then proceeded to represent the United States in the world finals in France. Recently, he appeared on the Food Network’s “The Next Iron Chef.” Chef Virant’s seasonal cooking style won him 2007 Best New Chef by *Food and Wine Magazine*. *Chicago Magazine* also named him Best New Chef in 2005. Chef McGrath, won the 2001 James Beard Award for “Best Chef In America: Southwest” and has appeared on television shows such as “Life Styles of the Rich and Famous,” “Live with Regis and Kathie Lee” and “The Today Show.” Chef Tourondel has received many accolades for BLT Steak including two stars in the *New York Times*, and three stars in Crain’s. Another concept of his, BLT Fish earned a prestigious three star review from *The New York Times*. It is not surprising that *Bon Appetit* magazine named Tourondel Restaurateur of the Year in October 2007.

The evening will begin with a beautiful reception showcasing each of the Best New Chef-award winners’ recipes and skills. Guests will then be invited to join the *Food & Wine* Best New Chefs for a sumptuous dinner at the resort. A team of chefs will prepare a four-course dinner showcasing recipes designed by the guest chefs along with expert-selected wine pairings.

Tickets are \$175 per person and are available through the Scottsdale League for the Arts at 480.945.7193 and on the Web at www.scottsdaleculinaryfestival.org. The Camelback Inn, A JW Marriott Resort & Spa, is located at 5402 E. Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85253.

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For media inquiries, contact mmp 602.264.2655

Scottsdale League for the Arts is a non-profit (501(c)3) charitable organization that raises funds for arts and art education programs throughout Arizona. Since 1992 the League has contributed more than \$2.5 million to numerous organizations benefiting children such as Ballet Arizona, Childsplay, Free Arts of Arizona, Greasepaint Youth Theatre, Jazz in Arizona, Phoenix Boys Choir and the Scottsdale Center for the Arts. For additional information about the League or on becoming a member or volunteer, please contact SLA 7309 E. Evans, Scottsdale AZ 85260 or by phone 480.945.7193 or visit the Web site www.ScottsdaleCulinaryFestival.org.