



Chef Tom Honored by James Beard Award Nomination

CONGRATULATIONS, CHEF TOM!

Nominations were announced on Friday for the 2009 James Beard Foundation's Restaurant and Chef Award Semifinalists and include Tom Gray, Executive Chef and Partner of Bistro AIX in the *Best Chef: South* category.

Deemed "the Oscars of the food world," by *Time* magazine, The James Beard Foundation Awards are the country's most coveted honor for chefs; food and beverage professionals; broadcast media, journalists, and authors working on food; and restaurant architects and designers. Chef Tom is in the running to claim the award along with top chefs from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi.



"Surprised isn't the word!", says Chef Tom. "A guest sent us an e-mail with congratulations on the nomination, but we had not received any official notice from the James Beard Foundation, so I wasn't sure it was real. When I actually confirmed it, my reaction was pure amazement."

The James Beard Foundation is dedicated to celebrating, preserving, and nurturing America's culinary heritage and diversity in order to elevate the appreciation of our culinary excellence. 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. Today, the Beard Foundation continues in the same spirit by administering a number of diverse programs that include educational initiatives, food industry awards, scholarships to culinary schools, and publications, and by maintaining the historic James Beard House in New York City's Greenwich Village as a performance space for visiting chefs. For more information, please visit www.jamesbeard.org.

Next time you are in, please be sure to give Chef Tom a "thumbs-up" on this great accomplishment, and wish him luck when the final five nominees are announced on March 23rd (final winners in each category will receive their awards on May 3rd, 2009 in New York City). "I'd love to bring the 'big prize' back to Jacksonville," adds Chef Tom. And we agree!

1440 San Marco Boulevard • Jacksonville, Florida 32207
904.398.1949 • bistrox.com