

The Post and Courier

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Wednesday February 24, 2010

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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THREE CHEFS

COVETED AWARD: Three Charleston chefs have made the preliminary round of nominations for a prestigious Best Chef Southeast award from the James Beard Foundation. >> 1D



Food

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GOING FOR 3

Charleston chefs in running for Southeast award

Will it be a triple play for Charleston?

Three chefs, Sean Brock of McCrady's, Craig Delhi of Cypress and Ken Vedrinski, formerly of Sienna and of Trattoria Lucca since 2008, have made the preliminary round of nominations for a coveted Best Chef Southeast award from the James Beard Foundation.

The three are in the running to be named final nominees March 22, when the category will be winnowed from 20 chefs to five. The winner will be declared during a ceremony and gala May 3 in New York.

Mike Lata, chef and co-owner of FIG restaurant, won the category in 2009, and Hominy Grill chef-owner Robert Stehling brought home the

same award in 2008.

No other city in the Southeast has three semifinalists for the 2010 awards, often called "the Oscars of the food world." The region includes Georgia, Kentucky, the Carolinas, Tennessee and West Virginia.

Established in 1990, the James Beard Foundation Awards are given annually and recognize culinary professionals in 19 restaurant and chef categories. Those include Outstanding Chef, Outstanding Restaurant, Best Chef in 10 different U.S. regions, Rising Star Chef of the Year, Outstanding Service, Outstanding Wine and Spirits Professional and Best New Restaurant.

- Teresa Taylor

