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## The Daily Meal's Colman Andrews Awarded Catalonia's Prestigious Creu de Sant Jordi

New York, NY (April 12, 2012)—Colman Andrews, editorial director of [The Daily Meal](#), has been awarded the prestigious Creu de Sant Jordi, or Cross of Saint George, by the government of Catalonia, in acknowledgement of his efforts to promote Catalan cuisine. Andrews is one of only nine North Americans to receive the honor since it was instituted in 1981.

"All the wonderful people I've met in the Catalan food world over the years and all the unforgettable experiences I've had in that wonderful corner of the Mediterranean have been fully rewarding in themselves," said Andrews. "I am greatly honored to receive the Creu de Sant Jordi, and will continue to support Catalonia and its culinary traditions in any way possible."

The Creu de Sant Jordi, designed by celebrated goldsmith Joaquim Capdevila, is the highest civil distinction awarded by the Generalitat, or autonomous government, of Catalonia. In addition to Andrews, other North American recipients include soprano Barbara Hendricks and the late poet and translator David H. Rosenthal.

Andrews first visited Catalonia, in the northeastern corner of Spain, in the early 1980s and, falling in love with its unique take on Mediterranean cooking, returned often to meet chefs and home cooks, visit farms and wineries, and immerse himself in the region's rich culinary traditions. The result was his first cookbook, *Catalan Cuisine*.

Originally published in 1988, *Catalan Cuisine* was subsequently translated into Spanish as well as Catalan, and is still in print today in America and the UK. This was the first commercially published book about Catalan cooking in the English language, and it introduced English-speaking chefs and diners on both sides of the Atlantic to this remarkable cuisine. In Spanish or Catalan, it also became a standard reference work for chefs in Catalonia itself. Ferran Adrià, the world-famous chef of El Bulli, once called it "my bedside reading."

Andrews is currently focusing his attention on a campaign to have Catalan cuisine named part of the Immaterial Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. He has also continued to travel in and write about Catalonia, as well as other parts of Spain. In 2010, Andrews published a biography of Adrià, *Ferran: The Inside Story of El Bulli and the Man Who Reinvented Food*. More recently, he authored *The Country Cooking of Italy*, which was

nominated for a James Beard Award this year in the Best International Cookbook category.

In addition to writing books, Andrews helped launch The Daily Meal in 2010, and has since led the editorial team that has contributed to the site's phenomenal success.

"We're proud to have Colman leading our editorial team not only because he has extensive editorial experience and deep knowledge of the food and drink worlds," said Jim Spanfeller, President and CEO of Spanfeller Media Group, parent company of The Daily Meal, "but also because of the tremendous respect he commands from his peers, both locally and internationally. This great honor from the Catalan government only reinforces his reputation as one of the most important figures in this field."

Andrews will accept the Creu de Sant Jordi at a ceremony at the Generalitat Palace in Barcelona on April 20.

### **About The Daily Meal**

[The Daily Meal](#) covers all things food and drink, creating a complete epicurean experience for cooks, food lovers, wine, beer and spirit connoisseurs, discerning diners and everyone in-between. Comprised of original content and video from Award winning editors, industry insiders, tastemakers and the user community, features range across the site's multiple channels: Cook, Eat/Dine, Drink, Travel, Entertain, Best Recipes, Holidays, Lists and Community. The Daily Meal also produces much-anticipated annual reports including the 50 Most Powerful People in Food, America's Most Successful Chefs, 101 Best Restaurants in America and 150 Best Bars in America. Additionally, The Daily Meal Shop, an online cookware store, offers over 7,000 kitchenware and specialty foods tailored specifically to The Daily Meal's hungry following of savvy food enthusiasts. Helmed by editorial director Colman Andrews, The Daily Meal is one of the largest food sites on the Web and the first property of Spanfeller Media Group, founded by Jim Spanfeller. Visit The Daily Meal on [Facebook](#); follow us on [Twitter](#).

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*Editor's Note:* Colman Andrews, The Daily Meal Editorial Director and a noted culinary authority, is available for interviews.