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## **The Daily Meal Names U.S. and International Chefs of the Year**

### ***Grant Achatz and René Redzepi Recognized for Outstanding Contributions to Culinary World***

New York, NY (December 22, 2011)—From molecular gastronomy to the reinvention and refinement of new Nordic cuisine, [The Daily Meal](#) has named two chefs who are changing the course of the food world. By a landslide, Grant Achatz and René Redzepi have earned the title of **The Daily Meal's Chef of the Year**—the debut awarding of an annual honor that recognizes today's chefs who are making outstanding contributions to the epicurean field both in the U.S. and abroad.

As chef and co-owner of Alinea, Next, and Aviary in Chicago, **Achatz** won The Daily Meal's U.S. Chef of the Year Award for his culinary prowess and for his innovations in restaurant reservation systems and menu variation. Continually noted for his contributions to the evolving culinary style of molecular gastronomy, he has propelled his way to the top of the food chain, becoming one of the most recognized faces in new American cuisine.

Being honored as the International Chef of the Year, **Redzepi** is best known for his inventiveness and dedication to truly local products and culinary ideas — attributes that have won his one-of-a-kind restaurant, Noma in Copenhagen, the title of World's Best Restaurant. With a keen imagination and unparalleled commitment to the environment, Redzepi's success has echoed across the international culinary landscape.

"We salute these two great chefs for their extraordinary achievements and contributions to culinary arts," said Colman Andrews, editorial director, The Daily Meal.

Rounding out a competitive pool of gastronomic greats, this year's U.S. and International finalists included Mario Batali, Marcus Samuelsson, David Chang, José Andrés, and Wolfgang Puck in the U.S. and Fergus Henderson, Massimo Bottura, and Gastón Acurio internationally.

The 2011 honorees were chosen by The Daily Meal editorial team and an advisory board comprised of food and restaurant industry experts from around the nation. Nominations for the U.S. and International categories were submitted and then voted upon by the committee.

For more information on the Chef of the Year Awards, please visit <http://www.thedailymeal.com/daily-meals-chef-year-2011>.

#### **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](#).