

For Immediate Release

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**Latino Culinary Chispa Awards Winners at Taste Addison
Celebrating the Fire and Soul of Hospitality**

Dallas-Fort Worth, TX — May 24, 2024 — Latino Culinary Institute and Association, a leader in promoting professional development for Latinos in the culinary field, is excited to announce the winners of our inaugural Chispa Awards for the DFW area. **Winners will be recognized at Taste Addison on June 1, 2024, on the International Stage.**

We are so proud of our hard-working Latino culinary professionals and here are the individual and restaurant winners of the Chispa Awards as we celebrate the Fire and Soul of Hospitality.

Individual Chispa Awards Winners:

- Best Chef - Adan Ventura - Tasty Paella in Richardson
- Best Sous Chef - Alejandro Castro – Flemings Steakhouse in Plano
- Best Server Dulce Beltran – Half Shells in Dallas
- Best Bartender – Joel Almanza – Fish City Grill in Dallas

Restaurant Chispa Awards Winners:

- Best Fast Casual - Casa Mama Authentic Mexican Restaurant in Dallas
- Best Breakfast Diner – Pete’s Café in Farmers Branch
- Best Full Service – La Comida in Dallas



With over 15,000 restaurants in DFW area, this initiative represents a significant milestone for LCIA and its ability to support Latino restaurant owners and underscores our commitment to attracting Latinos into the culinary, food services, and beverage fields.

"When you peek into any restaurant kitchen, you will see our *gente* chopping, slicing and cooking every type of food from around the world," said Lydia Gonzalez, chef and founder of LCIA. "We have so much talent in our community, and they deserve to be recognized as the fire and soul of hospitality."



**Chef Lydia Gonzalez, LCIA Founder and Jose Hernandez,
Co-Owner Pete’s Café in Farmers Branch, TX**

Jose Hernandez started working at Pete’s Café when he was only 14 years old cleaning tables and serving coffee, today he is co-owner and is working on opening another location this summer.

Restaurant owners interested in participating can visit the Chispa Awards page to download a promotional flyer with a QR code at www.LatinoCulinary.org

For media inquiries or additional information, contact Lydia Gonzalez at 214-704-8383 or chef@lydiagonzalez.com.

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The Latino Culinary Institute and Association (LCIA) is a member-driven non-profit organization promoting professional development to attract Latinos into the US culinary, food services, and beverage fields. Founded in 2020, LCIA offers opportunities to qualified new start-ups and existing small food businesses with technical assistance and training in food industry techniques and business operations. **Learn more at www.latinoculinary.org**