



Charleston Convention & Visitors Bureau

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**Charleston Chef Named Finalist for James Beard Award
*Chef Paul Smith an official ambassador for the city, CVB***

(Charleston, W.Va.) – Charleston Chef Paul Smith recently was named a finalist for a [James Beard Award](#) for Best Chef: Southeast. The James Beard Foundation and its awards honor the late chef James Beard, often referred to as one of the fathers of American cuisine. These national awards are among the most acclaimed a chef or culinary professional may receive. The Southeast category encompasses Georgia, Kentucky, North and South Carolinas, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

“I am humbled when I think about how many restaurants and chefs are in this region,” said Chef Paul Smith. “This nomination is huge, not just for me and my team, but for Charleston as well. Charleston went from being an awesome place to live to a food destination overnight. It is pretty unbelievable.”

“Congratulations, Chef Paul Smith, on being the first James Beard Best Chef Finalist from West Virginia,” said Charleston Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin. “Not only is this a monumental milestone in your culinary career, but it is also a tremendous honor for the team at 1010 Bridge and our Capital City,” said Mayor Amy Shuler Goodwin.

Chef Paul is a familiar face around Charleston, and while his Beard Award nomination is for his work at [1010 Bridge Restaurant](#), he’s also part owner of local hotspots like [Ellen’s Homemade Ice Cream](#) and [The Pitch](#) at Shawnee Sports Complex. Smith also is a Chef Partner at [Barkadas](#) in Charleston and at [The Humble Tomato](#) in Lewisburg. He



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also conducts cooking exhibitions at [Capitol Market](#) May through October during the free “Let’s Get Cooking” series.

Smith’s work within the Charleston community and travel throughout the state also landed him a new role as Ambassador for the Charleston Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) and the city of Charleston.

“The culinary scene in Charleston has been growing for some time but has remained a bit of a hidden gem. Thanks to Chef Paul and his efforts, the outside world is starting to take notice of what’s going on here,” said Tim Brady, President/CEO of the Charleston CVB. “There is no better choice as an ambassador for our city in the food world than him. Chef Paul works hard, has a great vision and, while incredibly busy with his different ventures, remains involved in the community. We’re proud to say that Chef Paul Smith calls Charleston home.”

Read Chef Paul’s CWV Ambassador profile on the [CVB website](#) to learn his favorite things about Charleston.

James Beard Award winners will be announced June 5 in Chicago. Visit jamesbeard.org for a complete list on finalists.

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