



SAVOR DALLAS ANNOUNCES 2010 LONE STAR HONOREES

**Posthumous awards for Bill Winspear and Norman Brinker,
and honors for Margot Winspear and Patrick Esquerre**

DALLAS (February 15, 2010) Chefs, vintners and spirit makers from North Texas and around the globe are now preparing to present this year's Savor Dallas, the international celebration that brings fans together annually to experience the best in cuisine, wine, spirits and the arts. The event takes place on March 5 and 6 in the heart of Downtown Dallas in the stunning venues of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and the newly renovated Sheraton Dallas.

Savor Dallas proudly announces the 2010 Lone Star Award honorees. The awards are presented each year by Savor Dallas to recognize outstanding contributions in the culinary field, support of the arts, and business achievements related to wine or culinary arts.

Arts Award

Margot and Bill Winspear (with posthumous honor to Bill Winspear)

After successfully managing businesses in Vancouver and Toronto, Bill Winspear moved with his family to Dallas in 1975 to assume the position of president of Chaparral Steel. In 1984 he founded and became president and CEO of Associated Materials, Incorporated from which he retired in 2002. Complementing her husband's fine work, Margot served such instrumental leadership roles as president of the Women's Committee of both the Vancouver Opera Company and the National Canadian Opera Company. When Margot and Bill came to Dallas, they brought their leadership gifts to The Dallas Opera and a myriad of philanthropic efforts, including support of the University of North Texas and the University of Texas' Southwestern Medical Center.

Bill Winspear's passing in 2007 was a loss to the North Texas community. His and his wife's lead gift to help build the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House in the AT&T Performing Arts Center has helped raise Dallas' and Texas' prominence on the world cultural map to new vibrancy, standards and experience, bringing the gift of fine musical performance for all of us to enjoy here. Savor Dallas celebrates the Winspear's generosity with Margot's receipt of honors for this great team.

Culinary Award

Norman Brinker (with posthumous honor)

Norman Brinker's legacy to the culinary industry continues to live through the success of some of the United States' most beloved restaurant brands and through the thousands of people he has inspired to believe in the magic, warmth and highest professional standards of the restaurant business.

Features now common to the American dining experience are credited to Mr. Brinker's innovation and entrepreneurship. Chili's Grill & Bar, expanded by Mr. Brinker and his leadership team from a few dozen restaurants in the early 1980s to more than 1,500 today, has grown to be a household name. The Chili's brand combines with On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina and Maggiano's Little Italy to form a robust portfolio with 1,700 plus locations worldwide, each run with the Norman Brinker spirit, sparkle and energy that characterizes his namesake company, Brinker International. Mr. Brinker's landmark talents and leadership helped grow additional dining brands Romano's Macaroni Grill and Corner Bakery, today both thriving beyond Brinker International.

The international community grieved Norman Brinker's passing in June 2009. His fingerprint will remain forever on the casual dining industry and in the communities in which Brinker International does business. Philanthropic gifts from the Brinker family and Brinker International, ranging from the arts to causes serving people of all ages in need, continually improve the quality of life for everyone.

Texas Spirit Award

Patrick Esquerre

Patrick Esquerre was born in France, but his deep roots in Texas and incredible contributions to the restaurant and hospitality business make him an integral part of the Lone Star State's community in every Texas city.

Mr. Esquerre came to Dallas in the 1980s with a fine sense of the international marketplace and classic consumer brands, having led marketing teams for major advertising assignments with Young & Rubicam in Europe and founding his own marketing firm with prestigious companies needing his counsel. His clients included Jacques Chirac when he was Mayor of Paris and even Blessed Pope John Paul II on a special visit to Paris.

Also inspired by his mother's wonderful cooking in his native France, he saw an opportunity to create a comfortable, casual approach to French cuisine in North Texas with the creation of la Madeleine to provide all of the charm and ease of a relaxing meal at home. Under his management, la Madeleine Bakeries and Cafes numbered 60 plus in Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, Arizona and Washington, DC. The brand continues to be successful today as a favorite for all ages for consistently excellent, authentic, flavorful French cuisine.

Additionally, Mr. Esquerre helped found and is taking a lead role in the Essilor Vision Foundation with a mission to eliminate poor vision and its life-long consequences. The Essilor Vision Foundation works to equip children who cannot afford them with eyeglasses for better vision to have a better chance to learn in school, to avoid poverty and crime – and to succeed in everything.

He has received Entrepreneur of the Year honors from INC Magazine, humanitarian honors from the Public Broadcasting System and many other not-for-profit-organizations. Savor Dallas applauds Mr. Esquerre’s ongoing work in the business and philanthropic realms.

“Bill Winspear and Norman Brinker did so much to make our lives better in Dallas and North Texas, and they are greatly missed. Norman, Margot and Bill, and Patrick represent accomplishments that are truly inspiring in all aspects of life,” said Vicki Briley-White, co-founder of Savor Dallas with her husband Jim White. “Their contributions to business, philanthropy and our overall quality of life are amazing and we’re grateful to them for their incredible work in the restaurant industry and charity.”



Pictured here (left to right): Patrick Esquerre, Cindy Brinker Simmons, Toni Brinker, Margot Winspear, Vicki Briley-White and Jim White at the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House in the AT&T Performing Arts Center, where the Brinker International Forum is hosted.

The 2010 Lone Star Awards will be presented to honorees and their families on Saturday, March 6 at The Sheraton Dallas Hotel's Chaparral Club at 6:00 p.m. The presentation will take place during Savor Dallas' Reserve Tasting is hosted from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Savor Dallas' 2009 Lone Star honorees were Caroline Rose Hunt and Dee and Charles Wyly.

About Savor Dallas 2010

On Friday, March 5th, Savor Dallas celebrates the Arts District with the popular "Arts District Wine Stroll." Guests enjoy wine and food tastings in the beautiful Dallas Museum of Art - Seventeen Seventeen Restaurant; Meyerson Symphony Center; Nasher Sculpture Center; Winspear Opera House; and Wyly Theatre (from 5-7pm).

The Sheraton Dallas Hotel is the focal point of all the fun activities on Saturday March 6th. The afternoon features a series of wine tasting seminars led by top experts. Then, a limited attendance "Reserve Tasting" featuring super premium wines and spirits is presented in the Sheraton's 38th floor Chaparral Club.

The gourmet highlight of the Savor Dallas weekend is the "International Grand Tasting" (March 6, 7-10pm). It's staged in The Lone Star Ballroom of the Sheraton Dallas and features a sampling of signature cuisines from over 60 of Dallas-Fort Worth's "Star Chefs." Additionally, guests can choose from over 400 premium wine varietals, top shelf cocktails and hand-crafted beer and ales.

Savor Dallas donates proceeds from a fine wine silent auction to the North Texas Food Bank and funds a scholarship for a deserving chef to attend culinary school, which is administered through the Greater Dallas Restaurant Association. The Art Department at Booker T. Washington High School receives profits from sales of Savor Dallas t-shirts and proceeds from the sale of student artwork at Savor Dallas.

For a complete schedule of events and list of participating restaurants, and to purchase tickets, go to www.SavorDallas.com or call 888-728-6747.

###

MEDIA CONTACT

Fran Gallagher: fran@praestarpr.com or 214-762-6193