

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 8, 2002

Contact: Ellen Nash
(312) 715-5372

Bethany Sirt
(312) 715-6761

**National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation Raises its
Glass to the Winners of America's Best Wine List Awards**

Awards presentation to take place at this year's Monterey Wine Festival

CHICAGO – The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) is pleased to announce the winners of the Monterey Wine Festival's first annual America's Best Wine List Awards. The unique nationwide competition recognizes wine lists in eight different categories that complement a restaurant's or private club's cuisine and concept. The winners will be officially announced at the gala, which will take place the evening of Saturday, April 20 during the festival, held April 18-21, in Monterey, California. Celebrity guest chef Sean Knight, from Pinot Blanc in Napa Valley, will be serving his culinary creations at the gala.

"This is the first year we've presented America's Best Wine List Awards and were very excited about the number of entries we received this year," said Mary M. Adolf, president and chief operating officer of the NRAEF. "We are pleased to take part in recognizing restaurateurs that strengthen the industry by creating exceptional, one-of-a-kind wine lists."

"Judging more than 300 wine lists took a lot of time and effort, especially since all the lists we received were exceptional," said Doug Frost, MS, MW, director of America's Best Wine List Awards. "We based our decision not on the sheer size of a wine list, but the quality of the selections and its support of the overall restaurant experience. We also created a Special Innovation Award due to the extreme uniqueness of one restaurateurs wine list. "

-more-

America's Best Wine List Awards Winners/Page 2

Winners of America's Best Wine List Awards include:

America's Best Wine List Award: Private Club
The Grille Room at Ford's Colony, Williamsburg, VA

America's Best Wine List Award: Casual Dining (Concept with Less Than Five Units)
L'Uraku Restaurant, Honolulu, HI

Americas' Best Wine List Award: Casual Dining Chain
Olive Garden Italian Restaurants, Orlando, FL

America's Best Wine List Award: Fine Dining Chain
Roy's Restaurants, Hawaii and California

America's Best Wine List Award: Fine Dining (Less Than 50 Wine Selections)
Sabor, Schaumburg, IL

America's Best Wine List Award: Fine Dining (50 - 100 Wine Selections)
The Ashby Inn & Restaurant, Paris, VA

America's Best Wine List Award: Fine Dining (100 - 500 Wine Selections)
Southpark Seafood Grill and Wine Bar, Portland, OR

America's Best Wine List Award: Fine Dining (More Than 500 Wine Selections)
Rubicon, San Francisco, CA

Special Innovation Award
Aureole, Las Vegas, NV

The Special Innovation Award was created for Aureole due to their new wine E-book, which is a step forward in the interactivity inherent in a computer-based wine list.

The Monterey Wine Festival is the nation's original wine festival. It features more than 125 wineries and 800 different wines from California's diverse wine regions. Along with wine tastings, the festival will feature cooking demonstrations, educational seminars and a large bottle auction. A portion of the proceeds from this year's auction will go to the NRAEF's Scholarships and Mentoring InitiativeSM, which provides scholarships to students pursuing a career in the restaurant and foodservice industry.

###

The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fulfilling the educational mission of the National Restaurant Association. Founded in 1987, the Foundation strengthens and supports the restaurant and foodservice industry by providing high-quality learning, certification and awareness programs.