THE INTERNATIONAL

Risotto Festival

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOP CHEFS TO COMPETE AT THE 10th INTERNATIONAL RISOTTO FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 10, 2013

HOUSTON, TX *(October 15, 2013)* – Fans of fine food and wine are cordially invited to attend one of Houston's finest culinary festivals. **The 10th International Risotto Festival** will be held on **Sunday, November 10 from 2 to 6 pm at The Houston Design Center.** This gourmet strolling event includes an afternoon of delicious Italian foods and wine including samplings of antipasti, tastings of all risotto entries, fabulous Italian wines, music and entertainment, exotic car display, activities for kids and designer showroom tours.

Some of Houston's top chefs will be competing in this year's competition including
Kevin Bryant – *Eleven XI,* **Jon Buchanan** – *Trevisio,* **Scotty Campbell** – *Viking,* **Ricky Cruz** – *Grotto* **Maurizio Ferrarese** – *Quatro at The Four Seasons,* **Ryan Hildebrand** – *Triniti,* **Carmelo Mauro** – *Carmelo's,* **Michael Pelligrino** – *Max's Wine Dive,* **Manuel Pucha** – *Philippe,* **Carlos Rodriquez** – *Vic & Anthony's,* **Louis Rubio** – *La Griglia,* **John Watt** – *Prego,* **Jamie Zelko**- *Zelko Bistro*, **The Art Institute** and others to be announced.

Advance Tickets are now on sale and may be purchased online at **www.RisottoFestival.com** for $65 per person. Festival Tickets at the gate will be $75 per person and children under 12 are free. VIP tickets are also available for $100 per person in advance ($125 at the gate) which includes special parking and access to the VIP lounge where guests can mingle with participating chefs and judges, sip fine wines and enjoy a selection of antipasti and desserts.

This year's **International Risotto Festival** benefits The Education Foundation*, providing scholarships for students at The Art Institute of Houston & The Art Institute of Houston-North, a branch of The Art Institute of Houston.

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Serving as Honorary Chair of the 2013 International Risotto Festival is the **Consul General of Italy, Fabrizio Nava**. Consul General Fabrizio Nava graduated from the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in 1993 with a degree in Political Science. He joined the Italian Foreign Service in 1995. His assignments have included posts in New Delhi, India and Ottawa, Canada. The Honorable Nava was appointed Consul General of Italy and he and his family moved to Houston in July of 2010.

Serving as Chairs of the 2013 International Risotto Festival are **Lucinda and Javier Loya**. Trendsetting interior designer Lucinda Loya brings eclectic, high-end style to her Houston-based firm, Lucinda Loya Interiors. Lucinda, an Art Institute of Houston graduate, is known for her residential and commercial work that's been touted in national magazines and, recently, on an episode of HGTV's Selling New York.

Javier Loya is the president and chief executive officer of Houston-based CHOICE! Energy. He has held this position since acquiring a controlling interest in the firm in August 2000. Loya helped found CHOICE! Energy in 1994, creating one of the first institutional natural gas brokerage houses following industry wide deregulation. Loya made headlines in 2002 when he signed on as a minority owner of the NFL's Houston Texans.

Event sponsors include Thorntree Slate and Marble, Casa Vinicola Zonin, Data-Source, Bunch & Shoemaker, Charlotte Nail Antiques, Design House, Inc., Kitchen & Bath Concepts, Leisure Collections, LGI Oriental Rugs, Post Modern Traditions, Pride of Persia Oriental Rugs, Teri Pugh Studio, Texas Gulf Bank and You Squared Media.

For more information call 713-864-2660, or visit RisottoFestival.com.

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**The Education Foundation is a non-profit tax-exempt foundation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation is supported by contributions from multiple sources, and provides scholarships to students who attend Education Management Corporation (EDMC) owned schools.*