



Le Bernardin

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Le Bernardin to Donate \$1 per Patron to City Harvest

Chef Eric Ripert projects a \$100,000 donation by end of 2009

New York, NY – Le Bernardin, one of New York’s most esteemed restaurants, plans to donate \$1 for each patron who visits the restaurant in 2009 to City Harvest, the world’s first food rescue organization dedicated to feeding New York City’s hungry men, women and children.

“Our goal is simple: to help alleviate hunger at a time when the city needs it most,” says Eric Ripert, chef and co-owner of Le Bernardin.

City Harvest has been meeting the needs of New York’s hungry since 1982, and Ripert has been involved with the organization for more than 10 years. He sits on the board, is a chair of its Food Council and leads cooking demos at City Harvest’s Mobile Markets. The bi-monthly City Harvest Mobile Markets directly distribute thousands of pounds of produce to two low-income neighborhoods, Melrose in the Bronx, and Stapleton in Staten Island.

The idea of making a year-long donation was born from the current economic climate and the belief from Ripert and his team that they could potentially broaden the basic foundation of the restaurant industry: sustenance.

In 2009, City Harvest will receive \$1 for every guest who dines at Le Bernardin or in The Salons, the restaurant’s private event space. An additional \$1 will be donated for each copy of *On The Line*, Ripert’s new cookbook about the inner workings of a four-star restaurant, sold at Le Bernardin. Based on projected patronage, the restaurant estimates a total donation of \$100,000 to City Harvest by year-end.

With the recent downturn in the economy, many families are struggling to make ends meet. Over 1.2 million New Yorkers access emergency food each year, a number that is expected to increase as the effects of the economy are felt. City Harvest is meeting this critical need every day. With 17 trucks and three cargo bikes on the road day and night, City Harvest feeds more than 260,000 hungry women, men and children each week. This year, City Harvest will rescue and deliver 23 million pounds of excess food, 1 million more than last year.

“Chef Eric Ripert has been a longtime supporter and vocal advocate for City Harvest and the City’s hungry men, women, and children,” said Jilly Stephens, Executive Director of City Harvest. “What many people might find hard to believe is that one out of every seven people in New York City will access emergency food this year. We applaud Eric’s leadership and generosity and appreciate his ongoing commitment to reducing hunger in New York City.”