



## **CARLA HALL RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS 2024 GRAND DAME AWARD**

*Female Icon of the Food World Honored by  
Les Dames d'Escoffier International*

New York, NY – June 3, 2024 – [Les Dames d'Escoffier International](#) (LDEI or Les Dames) is thrilled to announce that the prestigious Grande Dame Award for 2024 will be presented to Carla Hall, renowned chef, best-selling author, and beloved television personality.

Les Dames' Grande Dame Award recognizes outstanding lifetime achievements within the food, beverage and hospitality industries. Every other year, the recipients are chosen through nominations and votes from Les Dames' 2,400 members across 43 chapters worldwide.

"Les Dames' Grande Dame Award is one of the highest honors for a woman in food, beverage and hospitality," says Les Dames President, Kathy Gold. "We are extremely proud to celebrate Carla for her success and inspiration within the culinary industry – her accomplishments are nothing short of phenomenal."

For years, Carla Hall has captivated audiences with her passion for food and warm personality. She first gained national attention on Bravo's "Top Chef" and "Top Chef: All Stars," where her philosophy of cooking with love resonated with viewers. As a co-host of the award-winning daytime program "The Chew," she connected authentically with audiences, earning a loyal fanbase. Currently, Carla appears on the Food Network's multiple seasonal Baking Championship programs and is the Host of "Chasing Flavor" on Max.

"I am truly honored and humbled to represent the women of the industry with this recognition. It feels incredible to be included among the greats that have received this award, and I am filled with immense gratitude for the support that I feel from all the members of Les Dames," says Hall.

Born in Nashville, TN, Carla grew up immersed in the rich traditions of Soul Food. She initially pursued a business career, graduating from Howard University's Business School and working as an accountant before switching gears to become a runway model. During her travels through Europe, she discovered her deep-rooted passion for food, which led her to train as a chef. Carla has worked in various professional kitchens in and around Washington, D.C., and has authored several cookbooks, including her latest, *Carla Hall's Soul Food: Everyday and Celebration*.

Carla is deeply committed to philanthropy, and is on the Boards of organizations focused on the health and well-being of children (Helen Keller International, GenYouth, and The Pajama Program). She also works closely with 4H and the James Beard Foundation and served as the Culinary Ambassador for Sweet Home Cafe at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Previous Grande Dame Award winners include the acclaimed American chef and author Julia Child, American food journalist M.F.K. Fisher, renowned chef Edna Lewis, and many other notable names.

Now, Carla Hall joins this distinguished list of women who have left an enduring mark on the food and hospitality industry. For more information about the Grande Dame Award, visit <https://ldei.org/awards/grande-dame/>.

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### **About Les Dames d'Escoffier International**

Les Dames is an international organization of women leaders who create a supportive culture in their communities to achieve excellence in the fields of food, beverage, and hospitality. The organization's 2,800 members in 42 chapters in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Italy provide leadership, educational opportunities, and philanthropy. Since its founding in 1985, Les Dames chapters have raised and donated more than \$10 million to educational, community non-profits, and philanthropic organizations. For more information, visit [www.ldei.org](http://www.ldei.org) and follow Les Dames on Instagram @lesdamesintl and Facebook @Les Dames d'Escoffier Int'l.