

One day I'll actually make their acquaintance and feel like I can use their first names (their last names are [Hastings](#) and [Stitt](#) in case you were wondering). This marks [the second year in a row](#) that both Birmingham, AL based chefs have made it to at least the semi-finalist round ([here's the list of contenders](#)) of The James Beard Foundation Awards. Stitt (of [Highlands Bar & Grill](#)) is a potential contender for the nation's best chef while Hastings ([Hot & Hot Fish Club](#)) is hoping to be a finalist in the category of best chef in the South.

The finalists will be named on March 23, with the winners announced on May 3 via a media event and [the awards' official website](#).