



The news reverberated last night among foodies throughout the state of Alabama. [Chris Hastings](#) has already been enjoying a pretty special year - including [a win](#) on [Iron Chef America](#) and appearing in cities like [Charlotte, NC](#) and [Charleston, SC](#).

Now, after four previous nominations for the [James Beard Foundation Award's Best Chef, South](#) category over the last five years, came this:

[blackbirdpie url="https://twitter.com/#!/beardfoundation/status/199647066471936000"]

Considering it's the second ever *Year of Alabama Food*, it's only fitting that [the campaign's official website](#) had [a post up on their Alabama Farm to Table blog](#) congratulating the owner of [Hot & Hot Fish Club](#) shortly after [it was announced on Monday night](#).

Of course if you're out and about travelling, you may interested in knowing [who else took home awards during last night's ceremony](#) (PDF).

**Photo:** *Chris Hastings*. Kent Miller/jbfa.