

For Immediate Release

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Costa Mesa “Best in Food” Finalist in Rand McNally/USA Today “Best of the Road” Competition

COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA — [The Costa Mesa Conference & Visitor Bureau](#) announced today that while the city of Costa Mesa had been named a “Best in Food” finalist in the **Rand McNally/USA Today “Best of the Road”** contest, the winning town in the competition was Lafayette, Louisiana. Four other small towns competed for the “Best in Food” title: Gulfport, Florida; Addison, West Virginia; Burnsville, Minnesota; and Visalia, California. Rand McNally and USA Today limited the competition to small towns having a population of 150,000 or less.

Costa Mesa Mayor Gary Monahan had proclaimed Wednesday, July 13, 2011, “Rand McNally Best of the Road Day” in the city. The Best of the Road Rally team judging Costa Mesa’s restaurants were in the city July 12 and 13, visiting Costa Mesa favorites Eat Chow, Pizzeria Ortica, The Golden Truffle, Old Vine Café, Charlie Palmer, Marché Moderne and Mastro’s Steakhouse, and also tasting wine pairings at local wine shop Anne’s Boutique Wines with culinary samples from Silver Trumpet Restaurant & Bar, Onotria, Mi Casa, 118 Degrees, Nothing Bundt Cakes & Three Hearts Bake Shop.

“We’re very disappointed not to have won, but we congratulate the city of Lafayette on their victory,” said Paulette Lombardi-Fries, President of the Costa Mesa Conference & Visitor Bureau. “I particularly want to thank Kim Glen, our marketing manager, who was instrumental in the campaign to nominate Costa Mesa as a finalist and coordinating the delicious itinerary for the Road Rally team.

“To be among the six cities chosen out of the 600-plus cities that entered the contest is an honor,” Lombardi-Fries said. “This nomination, along with our incredible shopping and theatre venues, solidifies Costa Mesa as a premier southern California tourist destination.” The Bureau will promote the city’s ranking as a “Best in Food Finalist” for a year; the accomplishment will also be highlighted during the first-ever [Costa Mesa Restaurant Week August 19-26, 2011](#).

Costa Mesa is the home of such Orange County landmarks as [South Coast Plaza](#), [Segerstrom Center for the Arts](#) and the [OC Fair and Event Center](#). With its southernmost border only one mile from the Pacific Ocean, Costa Mesa is 35 miles south of Los Angeles and adjacent to [John Wayne/Santa Ana/Orange County Airport](#). The Costa Mesa Conference & Visitor Bureau was established in 1995. The Bureau’s primary goal is to increase leisure travel to the city of Costa Mesa by engaging in marketing programs and events for the city of Costa Mesa. For more information on travel to the city of Costa Mesa, visit www.TravelCostaMesa.com. The Costa Mesa Conference & Visitor Bureau is a 501(c) nonprofit organization.

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