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AUCTION, CELEBRITY CHEF AND ITALIAN CUISINE HIGHLIGHT 15TH ANNUAL WPSU CONNOISSEUR'S DINNER

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. (Dec. 4, 2006) – PBS chef Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, host of "Lidia's Family Table," brings her hearty and heartwarming Italian fare to **the 15th annual WPSU Connoisseur's Dinner and Auction, beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007 in the at the Nittany Lion Inn** in State College. Tickets are \$175 per person, \$70 of which is a tax-deductible gift to WPSU. Reservations for the event can be made by calling 814-863-6635 or writing to connndinner@psu.edu. More information about Bastianich, the menu and reservations, visit wpsu.org/conn07. The deadline for reservations is January 19, 2007.

The event will feature both a silent auction and a live auction. Selected items featured in the auction will include jewelry, getaways, paintings and more.

Guest chef Bastianich will interact with guests and discuss each course in detail as it arrives, as will this year's wine presenter, Robert Richards, who will provide background information on the wines served with each course.

Italian fare is what Lidia Matticchio Bastianich understands best. Her best-selling cookbooks highlight her personal collection of recipes accumulated since her childhood in Istria, located in northern Italy on the Adriatic Sea. Bastianich attributes her passion and appreciation for Italian food to her family. This passion is carried over to her public television series filmed in her Long Island home, "Lidia's Family Table," where four generations gather to cook, eat and celebrate the joys of life. "Lidia's Family Table" currently airs at 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays on WPSU-TV.

Lidia is also the chef/owner of four very successful New York City restaurants in addition to *Lidia's* restaurants in Pittsburgh and Kansas City. In addition, Bastianich has developed her own line of tomato-based sauces, and heads up an exclusive travel company that specializes in custom-designed food, wine, and cultural trips to all regions of Italy. A noted food historian, Bastianich gives lectures on Italian cuisine throughout the United States and Italy. For more information, visit <http://www.lidiasitaly.com>.

The menu for the Connoisseur's Dinner includes:

- Antipasti (appetizers): Egg-battered Zucchini Roll-ups, Mini Mushroom Custards, Shrimp and Scallop Gratin
Wine: Maso Canali 2005 Pinot Grigio Trentino
- Primo Piatto: Riso Sartù con Ragù alla Bolognese (pasta)
Wine: Zenato 2003 Ripassa Valpolicella Superiore
- Secondo Piatto (main course): Bracirole di Manzo (Braised Beef Rolls) served with Polenta, and Green Bean Gratin with Cherry Tomatoes, Mozzarella, and Basil
Wine: Marchesi di Barolo 2001
- Salad: Celery and Artichoke Salad with Shavings of Parmigiano-Reggiano
Wine: Ruffino Riserva Chainti Classico Ducale 2002
- Dessert: Crespelle (crepes) drizzled with Grand Marnier
Wine: Robert Mondavi Moscato d'Oro 2004

Sommelier for the event, Robert Richards, is a professor in the College of Communications at Penn State and a former news reporter and writer. He is a winemaker and a certified sommelier through the Court of

Master Sommeliers. He regularly conducts wine programs for the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. as well as for local organizations. His writings on the wine industry have appeared in major newspapers.

Centre Medical and Surgical Associates, P.C. will serve as the primary underwriters for the dinner, with additional funding provided by the DeIGrosso family. Best Event will provide décor for the evening and floral arrangements will be by Avant Garden. The auction committee is co-chaired by Connie DiNunzio and Traci Capperella. The dinner committee is chaired by Jane Zimmerman.

WPSU serves central Pennsylvania with programming, educational services and community outreach. This public media service produces, acquires and distributes programs that address local interests and reflect the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of an audience within central Pennsylvania.

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