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TASTE OF HARTFORD® RETURNS THIS WINTER WITH DINNER SPECIALS FOR \$20.10 *Restaurant Week Scheduled for January 18-24 in Hartford's Restaurants*

HARTFORD, CT - (December 22, 2009) Put your gloves on, wrap up in your scarf, and don your best appetite...The Greater Hartford Arts Council and The Hartford Advocate are presenting another great opportunity to visit downtown Hartford for good eats. The Taste of Hartford® returns this winter in the city's finest restaurants, each participating with special menus for only \$20.10* during the week of January 18-24, 2010. Usually held in August, the Taste is making an additional winter appearance to kick off the new decade and provide some recession-busting entertainment.

Taste of Hartford® will benefit the region's arts organizations as well. The restaurant owners have graciously pledged 25 cents from each dinner to the Arts Council's United Arts Campaign, which provides grants and services to more than 150 local arts and heritage organizations.

"The restaurants participating in the Taste of Hartford include a wide variety of cuisine with something to suit everyone's palate," said Kate Bolduc, Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Hartford Arts Council. "The affordable set price gives you a chance to explore the fabulous culinary choices that Hartford has to offer. Plus as you warm your spirits and belly with dinner, you'll warm your heart knowing you're supporting local arts, heritage and community."

Bolduc urged Taste diners to make a night of it by combining a Taste meal with a show, art exhibition, or cultural event. Look for ideas on the Greater Hartford Arts Council's events calendar: www.LetsGoArts.org/Calendar.

Diners can indulge in three-course meals ranging from traditional choices like steak or seafood dishes to exotic and ethnic pairings and specialty desserts. Some of the delectable food offerings include: mahi mahi, chicken empanizado, gumbo, blackened catfish, pot roast, bread pudding, Brazilian shrimp, bruleé of coconut and green tea tapioca pudding, warm pretzels with mustard, and spinach and artichoke pizza. Hungry yet?

A full list of participating locations, their Taste of Hartford menus, and links to their websites can be found at www.TasteHartford.com.

To date, the restaurants participating Taste of Hartford® include: Agave Grill, Black Eyed Sally's BBQ & Blues, Carbone's, City Steam, Costa del Sol, Dish Bar & Grill, Francesco's Ristorante, The Half Door, Hook & Ladder, La Casona, Mayor Mike's, O'Porto, Tisane, U.S.S. Chowderpot IV, Vaughan's, Vivo, and Wood-n-Tap. Reservations are recommended and restaurants specials are for dinners only.

The Greater Hartford Arts Council is a leader and catalyst for the promotion, fundraising and coordination of arts and heritage programs that help celebrate our diverse cultures, enliven the spirit, and enrich the economy of Connecticut's Capital Region. It is the largest independent arts council in New England, runs the 8th largest United Arts fund in the country and is a national leader in diversified services and cultural promotions. The Greater Hartford Arts Council has raised and invested over \$58 million for the arts over 38

years, helping to rank Greater Hartford in the top 6 percent of metropolitan areas in North America for its arts and culture. More information about the Greater Hartford Arts Council may be found at www.LetsGoArts.org.

** Menu prices do not include tax, beverages or gratuities. Taste of Hartford® dinners cannot be combined with other coupon offers. See individual restaurants for details.*