



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **OAKLAND'S TANYA HOLLAND AWARDED "CHEF OF THE YEAR" IN CALIFORNIA**

*Seven individuals will be honored at the 2013 California Travel Association Awards*



**Oakland, Calif. - December 19, 2012** - Oakland's own Tanya Holland, acclaimed chef and owner of [Brown Sugar Kitchen](#) and [B-Side BBQ](#), will be celebrated as the California Chef/Restaurateur of the Year at the California Travel Summit. Holland was the chosen recipient for the award based on her success in creating not one, but two, dining establishments that exemplify the best in culinary arts.

Holland has been recognized as a leader in Oakland's rising restaurant scene, and is known in the Bay Area and beyond as the "Fried Chicken and Waffles" master. This year, the City of Oakland named June 5 "Tanya Holland Day," acknowledging her positive impact on Oakland. She continues to be an influential leader in the city and state, supporting various programs and events. Holland's B-Side BBQ will be included in the upcoming [Oakland Restaurant Week](#) program, celebrated January 18-27, 2013 as a part of California Restaurant Month.

"We are thrilled that Tanya has received this well-deserved acclaim," said Alison Best, president & CEO of Visit Oakland. "As a spokesperson for our "[Oakland. To know it is to love it](#)" campaign, she has represented Oakland in such a positive way, shining a light on the many wonderful attributes of our city. We are so proud that she will be recognized for not only her delicious soul food, but also her connection to hospitality and tourism in Oakland."

Holland has established herself both in the kitchen and in front of the camera, marrying the two as a host on the 'Melting Pot Soul Kitchen' series on Food Network and Cooking Channel. Holland is also a regular guest chef on The Today Show, and has made guest appearances on Vh1, The Travel Channel, TV-One, Check, Please! Bay Area, NBC's "First Look," and NPR's Weekend Edition. She has also been featured in *Food & Wine*, "O" *The Oprah Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Sunset*, *Gourmet Magazine*, *Travel & Leisure*, and more.

"This is truly an honor to be recognized for this award, not only on behalf of Oakland, but the entire state of California," said Holland. "Oakland is such a vibrant city, and I am so glad to be a part of this wonderful community. Everyone has been so supportive of both Brown Sugar Kitchen and B-Side BBQ — I couldn't imagine growing my businesses in any other city."

Holland will be honored along with six other individuals at the California Travel Association Awards, held March 18-20, 2013 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. Other award winners include Werner Escher of South Coast Plaza for the F. Norman Clark Tourism Champion of the Year, Audrey Rust of Peninsula Open Space Trust for the Tourism Stewardship of the Year, and Sierra Nevada Brewing Company for Brewery of the Year. All of the award recipients can be found [here](#).

### **About Visit Oakland**

Visit Oakland is a non-profit organization marketing the City of Oakland as a travel destination. Visit Oakland offers a wide variety of complimentary services and materials for travelers and meeting planners interested in experiencing Oakland. For more information, see [visitoakland.org](http://visitoakland.org).

**About CalTravel**

CalTravel is the unified voice for the California travel industry's political concerns. By advocating directly to the state legislature, the Governor's office, local and federal officials, businesses, and the public, CalTravel addresses issues that affect the state's tourism industry. CalTravel also aggressively seeks to ensure continued funding for Visit California.

**Contact:**

Lindsay Wright  
PR/Communications Manager  
(510) 208-0561  
lindsay@visitoakland.org

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