

*Media Release from
Rancho de Chimayó*

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Rancho de Chimayó Receives National Award

Santa Fe, NM -- Restaurant industry leaders, educators and top students from more than 100 restaurant and culinary schools nationwide gathered in Chicago recently for the industry's annual award ceremony hosted by the National Restaurant Association and its Educational Foundation. Among the five award recipients honored was **Florence Jaramillo**, president of Manzana Center, Inc., which owns and manages **Rancho de Chimayó Restauranté**.

"We've received a lot of honors but this one is special because it is given by my peers in the industry," Jaramillo says. "They understand how hard we work and what we do. It's not just running a restaurant. There are so many facets to the restaurant -- the employees, the customers, the government regulations, and the community involvement."

Past award recipients have included Julia Child, Emeril Lagasse, Eric Hilton, Wolfgang Puck and many others.

Jaramillo says that when she and her husband Arturo Jaramillo started the restaurant in 1965 they wanted it to be a different kind of restaurant. They wanted all their guests to feel as though they had been invited to an old Spanish home where the food and the atmosphere are in the grand early tradition.

"For all of us -- not just the Jaramillo family, for all of us who appreciate this land and culture -- this restaurant is one place where this way of life stays alive," Jaramillo says.

Rancho de Chimayó employs 75 people, and contributes to the community of Chimayó by donating to organizations and helping them raise money. Jaramillo has served on the National Restaurant Association board and the New Mexico State Restaurant Association board.

Having recently celebrated its 40th year anniversary in October 2005, Rancho de Chimayó is known throughout the nation as serving the traditional cooking of New Mexico and it has been praised countless times throughout the past four decades for the authenticity of its cuisine and the richness of its character.

“I enjoy all the wonderful people,” says Jaramillo. “We have generations of families working here. On Mother’s Day and Father’s Day I give a gift to all the moms and dads that work for us. It’s that kind of business.”

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