

CIA Announces New Partnership with the Catalan Region of Spain

The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) has announced a new partnership with the Alícia Foundation and PRODECA, both based in Catalonia, to facilitate an exchange of culinary faculty, students, and experts.

Famed Catalan chef and Alícia Foundation Chairman Ferran Adrià of Spain's el Bulli restaurant; Dr. Tim Ryan, CMC, president of the CIA, and Joan Gené i Albesa and Fernando Bienert Serraclarà, president and general manager, respectively, of PRODECA (part of the Government of Catalonia), signed the agreement during Adrià's visit to the college's Hyde Park, N.Y., campus with top Spanish chef José Andrés on Wednesday, March 25.



The agreement will allow CIA faculty and students to study at the Alícia Foundation in Catalonia, a region in Spain that includes Barcelona and that has long been a leader in world-class chefs and restaurants as well as its critically acclaimed wines, olive oils and other foods. In addition to studying at the Alícia Foundation, visiting CIA students and faculty will be able to experience first-hand the top kitchens, markets and producers of Catalan food and wine.

At the same time, the new agreement will fund a 2009–2010 program series of visiting guest chefs and other leaders in Catalan gastronomy at the New York and California campuses of the CIA. This program series will include instruction on the avant-garde Catalan cuisine that has dazzled the culinary world in recent years, as well as the rich traditional culinary heritage of the region.

Results of this exchange program will be highlighted in coming months at the CIA's groundbreaking new Web site, www.WorldsofFlavorSpain.com, of which PRODECA is a lead sponsor.

The Alícia Foundation, based in Món Sant Benet near Barcelona, is a center of research devoted to the technological innovation in cooking, with a focus on promoting wider social access to good, healthy food. The foundation is funded by the Government of Catalonia and the Bank of Manresa.

For more information, visit www.ciachef.edu. The CIA is represented in Spain for this and other educational projects by Gastronomic+34 (www.gastronomic34.com).