

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**THE GOLDEN ONION
CALL FOR DESIGNS**

*Georgia Artists Invited to Create Trophy for New Professional Cooking Competition
Showcasing Vidalia® Onions at the 35th Annual Vidalia Onion Festival*

Vidalia, Georgia, USA (Thursday, January 26, 2012) — Georgia artists are invited to submit designs for the new Golden Onion trophy, which will be presented to the First Place champion of the new Golden Onion professional cooking competition on Sunday, April 22, 2012.

The inaugural Golden Onion professional cooking competition will be the official kick-off to the 35th Annual Vidalia Onion Festival. This new competition challenges 12 Georgia chefs to create and prepare recipes featuring Vidalia® Onions, Georgia's most exclusive and internationally renowned agricultural product. Competing chefs will have one hour to prepare and present their recipes. Dishes will be judged on the basis of taste, presentation and creativity. The First Place champion will be presented the Golden Onion trophy to hold for one year. The trophy must be surrendered the following year to the next winner. Due to the exclusivity and prestigious honor of this award, the trophy itself is anticipated to become a coveted prize that chefs will be honored to showcase at their restaurants during their reign.

Artists are invited to submit designs for this award. Any and all artists who live in the state of Georgia are eligible, including art students.

Initial drawings or sketches of proposed designs with descriptions must be submitted by Wednesday, February 15, 2012. Artist's name and contact information must be included. Submit entries to Ingrid M. Varn via email to yacvb@bellsouth.net or fax to 912-538-1466.

The winning design must adhere to these Golden Onion trophy specifications:

- The trophy must be able to stand on its own on a table, shelf, ledge or other surface. Therefore, the design must include a base (which may be made of wood, metal, lucite, or any other material which has a fixed form).
- The base must incorporate the words "Golden Onion"
- The trophy is intended to last indefinitely, passed to subsequent winners year after year. Thus materials that are fragile or change form with age or extremes of temperature are not suitable.
- The winning design must include some depiction of a Vidalia Onion.
- The award will be named "Golden Onion." Designs need not be gold or golden hue, however.

The winning design will be selected by members of the Vidalia Onion Festival Committee. The winner will be notified no later than Wednesday, February 29, 2012. The winner will receive a \$200 stipend to cover all material, production and delivery costs.

The trophy must be completed and delivered no later than April 2, 2012 to:

Ingrid M. Varn, Executive Director
Vidalia Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
100 Vidalia Sweet Onion Dr.
Vidalia, GA 30474

In addition to the recognition and glory that comes along with being the designer of this unique trophy, the winning artist will also receive complimentary admission for two to the Golden Onion professional cooking competition to be held at the Vidalia Community Center, 107 Old Airport Road in Vidalia, Ga., 12:30-5 p.m. on Sunday, April 22, 2012. Overnight accommodations, dinner on Saturday evening and breakfast Sunday morning will also be provided. Transportation costs are excluded.

The winning artist will also be named in promotional materials related to the competition.

About the Vidalia Onion Festival

Celebrating its 35th year in 2012, the Vidalia Onion Festival will be held April 26-29 in Vidalia, Ga. The event has been featured on The Food Network and recognized as one of the “5 Don't-Miss Festivals Across the U.S.” by MSNBC. The four-day festival offers something for everyone, including the Miss Vidalia Onion Pageant, a children’s parade, outdoor music concerts, an arts and crafts festival, street dance, car show, the Kiwanis Onion Run, the Vidalia Onion Festival Rodeo, and the Famous onion eating contest. Come to Vidalia to experience the “whole onion.” For more information visit www.vidaliaonionfestival.com.

CONTACT:

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