

## NEWSMAKERS ■ ENTERTAINMENT

AUSTINITES SCORE  
BEARD NOMINATIONS

La Condesa, the downtown Austin home of progressive interior Mexican cooking, was named as a semifinalist for the 2010 Best New Restaurant award Thursday by the **James Beard** Foundation.

Austin Japanese fusion bistro Uchi placed two among the semifinalists: chef-owner **Tyson Cole** for Best Chef of the Southwest and **Philip Speer** for Outstanding Pastry Chef.

Cole has been nominated for the award twice before.

The Uchi team is working on a second Austin location, Uchiko, with plans to open this summer.

La Condesa owner **Jesse Herman** had two reasons to celebrate Thursday: The day also marked La Condesa's one-year anniversary.

"To be in the company of some of the most incredible restaurants in the country is really an honor," he said.

Finalists for the Beard awards will be announced March 22 by the New York-based foundation, which promotes culinary achievement among chefs, restaurants and food journalists. Winners will be announced in May.



**Tyson Cole**