



**PRESS RELEASE:** The Connecticut Specialty Food Association Honors  
The Gracious Gourmet with 5 Specialty Food Awards

**Bridgewater, CT** – April 4, 2013 — The Connecticut Specialty Food Association (CSFA) awarded The Gracious Gourmet five awards in three categories during its 12th Product Awards Competition on Wednesday, March 27. The winning products are:

Tapenade

1st Place: The Gracious Gourmet Black Olive Tapenade

2nd Place: The Gracious Gourmet Artichoke Parmesan Tapenade

Savory Spread

2nd Place: The Gracious Gourmet Rosemary Pear Spread

3rd Place: The Gracious Gourmet Fig Almond Spread

Savory Condiment

2nd Place: The Gracious Gourmet Hatch Chile Pesto

“Our Black Olive Tapenade and Hatch Chile Pesto are both new product entries this year for The Gracious Gourmet,” says Nancy Wekselbaum, founder. “We’ve gotten great feedback on these uniquely American twists on European favorites. We are very proud that the judges recognized the newcomers. Our Fig Almond Spread, Artichoke Parmesan Tapenade and Rosemary Pear Spread have been strong sellers for years.”

A total of 184 specialty food items from Connecticut-based manufacturers were entered into 35 categories. A panel of 20 judges consisting of local media personalities, food writers, chefs from the CT Department of Agriculture’s Farm-to-Chef Program, and wine specialists scored products on overall taste/flavor, texture, aroma, and appearance/color. Each judge was assigned to specific categories, responsible for evaluating an average of approximately 30 different products.

The Gracious Gourmet has won awards from the CFSA every year from 2007-2012.

Tricia Levesque, CSFA Director, says competition and high standards remain strong each year in Connecticut’s specialty food production industry. “It is always amazing to see the variety of high quality foods and beverages made by producers right here in Connecticut,” she says. “This competition showcases the best of the best in the state. Each year we seem to find new entrepreneurs looking to showcase the outstanding products they produce. The products all lend themselves to special occasions, treats, or an everyday meal. They also make wonderful gifts. There is always something for everyone.”

**Background on The Gracious Gourmet:** Based in Bridgewater, Connecticut, Nancy Wekselbaum founded The Gracious Gourmet in late 2006 using her personal recipes crafted from a love of exceptional food and inspired by many personal and professional travels around the globe. The growing line of specialty food products can transform ordinary dishes into exceptional ones without any fuss. The quality of The Gracious Gourmet’s products is second to none, and their uses are nearly unlimited. Our customers are busy, sophisticated people who are looking to save time yet still serve exciting and innovative food. The Gracious Gourmet’s aim is quite simple: every meal can be a special occasion. Winner of the NASFT sofi Gold Award for Outstanding Condiment for Spiced Sour Cherry Spread and a 2009 sofi Silver Finalist for Outstanding New Product for Dilled Carrot Tomato Tapenade.

###

**Contact:** Nancy Wekselbaum, founder, at 860.350.1213 or [nancy@thegraciousgourmet.com](mailto:nancy@thegraciousgourmet.com) or Natalie Noblitt, marketing, at 630.566.9828 or [natalie@thegraciousgourmet.com](mailto:natalie@thegraciousgourmet.com).

**Connect online:** [www.thegraciousgourmet.com](http://www.thegraciousgourmet.com), Facebook ([/thegraciousgourmet](https://www.facebook.com/thegraciousgourmet)), Twitter ([@graciousgourmet](https://twitter.com/graciousgourmet)) and Pinterest ([/graciousgourmet](https://www.pinterest.com/graciousgourmet))