The ninth annual *Taste & Tribute* benefit gala for the Tibetan Aid Project will grace the ballroom of the *Four Seasons* Hotel San Francisco on Friday, November 20, 2009. Featuring twenty-two of the best Bay Area chefs, *Taste & Tribute* gives 220 guests the rare opportunity to watch the tableside creation of a gourmet, four-course meal by culinary masters. Chefs work in pairs to create a unique dining experience for eleven different tables. Proceeds support the Tibetan Aid Project’s efforts to rebuild and protect the endangered spiritual heritage of Tibet. Tickets are $300.

Chef Laurent Manrique of *AQUA* and *Fifth Floor* was the inspiration behind *Taste & Tribute* and has been the coordinating chef since its inception in 2001. Participating chefs at this year’s event include: Peter Armellino of *Plumed Horse*; Bruno Chemel of *Chez TJ*; Preston Dishman of *Viognier*; Laurent Manrique of *AQUA* and *Fifth Floor*; Mark Richardson of *Four Seasons Hotel San Francisco*; and Xavier Salomon of *Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay*. The event also features fine wines and a captivating live and silent auction.

Founded in 1969, the Tibetan Aid Project helps Tibetans rebuild, preserve, and strengthen their cultural and spiritual heritage for the benefit of all humanity. Last year, *Taste & Tribute* netted over $150,000 for the ongoing text preservation project, which has led to the distribution of nearly two and a half million traditional Tibetan texts to Tibetan refugees throughout Asia. These treasured texts are presented annually at the World Peace Ceremony in Bodh Gaya, India, where over ten thousand Tibetans gather each year to offer prayers for peace and the well-being of all humanity.

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