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**DELAURENTI SPECIALTY FOOD & WINE WINS LEADERSHIP AWARD –
Top West Coast Specialty Food Purveyor Recognized for Founding Festival**

SEATTLE, Feb. 3, 2006 – *Gourmet News* announced today the recipients of its 2005 Retail Leadership Award. DeLaurenti Specialty Food & Wine received the award for launching the Seattle Cheese Festival in May of 2005, the only known festival of its kind on the West Coast. The festival came from the vision of Pat McCarthy, owner of DeLaurenti, to fill the street of Pike Place Market with the centerpiece of the DeLaurenti store – cheese – and allow the public to experience artisanal cheese the best way, by tasting it.

“This educational outreach comes at a time when the availability and the consumption of artisanal and specialty cheeses are on the rise,” said *Gourmet News* editor Anna Wolfe. “The need for education is definitely there.”

The award comes at key time for DeLaurenti Specialty Food & Wine which is celebrating its sixtieth year in business. Seattle residents and visitors have long looked to DeLaurenti to provide some of the highest quality food and wine items and above all, cheese.

The Seattle Cheese Festival, now a non-profit organization formed to educate the public on artisanal, handcrafted and farmstead cheese and to benefit specialty cheese producers, will be back in Pike Place Market May 12 – 14, 2006. In 2005 more than 250 cheeses were represented with 35 domestic and international producers present at the festival and over 10,000 pounds of cheese were sampled. The event also included a roster of educational seminars, all of which were sold out.

To learn more about the 2006 Seattle Cheese Festival and festival updates visit www.seattlecheesefestival.com.

DeLaurenti Specialty Food & Wine, the most complete specialty food market on the West Coast, has provided local and visiting Pike Place Market customers with an exceptional food destination for 60 years. DeLaurenti is located at the corner of 1st & Pike in Seattle and offers an incomparable array of hard to find culinary ingredients, a comprehensive selection of wines from the Northwest and around the world, cured meats from Italy and over 250 varieties of cheese. For more information and hours, please call (206) 622-0141 or visit www.del Laurenti.com.

For more information about *Gourmet News* and the Retail Leadership Awards, please visit www.gourmetnews.com or contact Managing editor Katie Gallagher at (207) 846-0600, extension 278.

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