

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winter Park Institute Welcomes José Andrés to Central Florida

Internationally recognized chef, restaurateur and humanitarian to headline WPI Experience presented by Orlando Health October 20 at Rollins College; tickets start at \$25

WINTER PARK, Fla., August 20, 2026 — The Winter Park Institute (WPI), in partnership with Orlando Health, will welcome internationally recognized chef, restaurateur and humanitarian **José Andrés** to Central Florida on October 20, 2026, for a signature Institute Event at Warden Arena at Rollins College. Tickets start at \$25.

A celebrated chef, restaurateur, and humanitarian, Andrés has built a remarkable career around a powerful idea: food has the ability to bring people together and each of us has the ability to make a difference. In a dynamic and deeply personal conversation, he will share stories from his journey and reflect on leadership, service and what it means to act when others need us most.

“José Andrés represents exactly the kind of voice that personifies the Winter Park Institute mission of engaging global thought leaders in meaningful conversations that impact our communities and our world,” said Lawrence Lyman, Chair of the Winter Park Institute Board of Trustees. “His work reminds us that powerful ideas can inspire meaningful action. At WPI, our goal is not simply to create an extraordinary evening, but to spark conversations that continue across our community and deepen the way we think about our responsibility to one another.”

Andrés is one of the most influential culinary and hospitality leaders of his generation. Credited with helping popularize tapas in America through Jaleo, he is the founder and executive chairman of José Andrés Group, operating restaurants across the United States and beyond. His culinary career has earned some of the industry’s highest honors, including the James Beard Foundation’s Outstanding Chef award. His portfolio also includes Jaleo at Disney Springs, giving Andrés an established connection to Central Florida’s culinary and hospitality community.

That belief in the power of food extends far beyond his restaurants. In 2010, Andrés founded World Central Kitchen, which provides meals to communities affected by disasters and humanitarian crises. Through that work, he has become an influential voice on the ability of food to care for people and bring communities together in moments of extraordinary need.

Andrés has twice been named one of *TIME* magazine’s 100 Most Influential People and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2025. He is also a bestselling author whose books include *We Fed an Island*, his firsthand account of feeding communities across Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

Presented by Orlando Health, the José Andrés Experience reflects WPI’s commitment to ensuring that ideas explored on stage continue into the community. Following the October 20 conversation, a signature **WPI Reflect Forum** on October 26 at The Ravenous Pig will convene leaders from business and philanthropy to explore how the themes raised by Andrés can inform and strengthen Central Florida.

The Experience will also include **Pages for the Ages**, WPI’s intergenerational community reading initiative, centered on Andrés’ *We Fed an Island*. Inspired by his example, WPI and Orlando Health will also make a philanthropic investment in Special Hearts Farm, translating the ideas explored throughout the Experience into tangible impact in the community.

Event Details

A Conversation with José Andrés

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.

Warden Arena at Rollins College

Tickets start at \$25. Purchase tickets [here](#).

About the Winter Park Institute

The Winter Park Institute creates opportunities for meaningful civic engagement and community connection through conversations with globally recognized leaders in public policy, business, science, literature, the arts, technology and innovation. WinterParkInstitute.org

Media Contact

Lindsay Kist

Executive Director

Winter Park Institute

LKist@WinterParkInstitute.org