



**Address at South Beach Wine and Food Festival Tribute Dinner  
Honoring Charlie Trotter and Piero Antinori**

**Given by Mark B. Rosenberg  
on February 25, 2012**



*This speech was presented at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival Tribute Dinner  
Honoring Charlie Trotter and Piero Antinori February 25, 2012.*

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Mark Rosenberg, privilege of being the President of Florida International University! FIU, a public university here in Miami with 48,000 students, is one of the principal beneficiaries of proceeds from this great Festival! We thank you for being here this evening! We thank Bank of America for sponsoring this dinner.

This evenings Honorees are Charlie Trotter and Piero Antinori! We salute them for their achievements--they follow in a long line of honorees to this dinner: Ferran Adria, Eric Ripper and Maguy LeCoze, Jean-Georges vongerichten, Emeril Lagasse, Daniel Boulud, Alain Ducasse.

This is a special evening for another reason: This evening we pause to salute Southern Wine & Spirits of America, and in particular Harvey and Wayne Chaplin! You see, the Chaplin Family has just honored FIU by allowing us to name our award winning School of Hospitality and Tourism Management as the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Were it not for their generosity and vision, and the hard work and brilliance of their capable team, led by Mel Dick and Lee Schrage, we would not be here this evening, and our School would not have the scholarship and program funds to continue its development. Will you please join me in thanking the Chaplins!

FIU believes in the power of partnership and win-win relations – thank you Harvey and Wayne! Roberta and Arlene for believing in us!!! We also want to thank our star lineup of guest chefs: Patrick O’Connell, Emeril Lagasse, Norman van Aken, Wylie Dufresne, Frederic Dalaire, Michelle Gayer.

Of course we would also like to thank our sponsors: Food Network, Food & Wine, Southern Wine & Spirits of Florida, Bank of America, The New York Times, Acqua Panna, Allen Brothers Steaks, Antinori, Chefware, Cigar Aficionado, Costa Farms, Godiva, Loews Miami Beach Hotel, Metrosigns, Petrossian, Reedel, San Pellegrino, Urbani, and Wine Spectator.

Now I am very pleased to introduce a friend and one of our community’s strongest corporate leaders Gene Schafer, Market President Miami Dade Monroe County for Bank of America, and tonight’s major sponsor!