

## Daniel Boulud to attend book-signing party, chef event and private fundraiser

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On the heels of a back-to-back launching of several ventures amplifying his culinary reach and star power, Daniel Boulud comes to town today for a weekend visit to his eponymous Palm Beach restaurant.

It will be Boulud's first appearance this season at Café Boulud, the flagship restaurant at The Brazilian Court. Arriving from New York, where he owns four highly rated restaurants, he'll cook, preside over a book-signing party, plan an upcoming chef-studded extravaganza and prepare a dinner at a private Palm Beach home.

"It's always a big deal when Daniel comes to town," said Café Boulud Executive Chef Zach Bell, who has been at the helm of Café Boulud since it opened in 2003. "For my kitchen staff, to have Daniel here makes everyone a little awestruck. But even though he's a celebrity chef, he loves rolling up his sleeves, getting on the line and cooking with the team."

The chef and restaurateur opened three restaurants this past summer and fall — one in Beijing and two in Vancouver, Canada. That brings the total number of eateries now operated under Boulud's New York-based management company, The Dinex Group, to nine.

In addition, Boulud just introduced a retail line of spice blends designed with home cooks in mind. He's also solidifying plans for a springtime opening of his fifth New York restaurant, a casual eatery in the Bowery focused on international beers, artisanal sausages and brassiere dishes.

"Time is one of the most valuable things we have and something I need more of, so that's why my days in Palm Beach will be so valuable," Boulud said.

This evening, Boulud will prepare and serve a by-invitation dinner that Richard and Leslie Schlesinger are hosting in their Palm Beach home to honor Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and breakthrough findings of its doctors in such areas as immunology.

Members of the Schlesinger family are principal owners of The Brazilian Court.

Said Leslie Schlesinger, "Daniel is so generous to give so much of himself to this dinner, as well as all of the Café Boulud staff who have gone out of their way to make this a wonderful

evening."

From noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Boulud will headline a book-signing at Café Boulud, where he'll gab with guests and sign whichever of his six cookbooks they may wish to purchase. The event is open to the public.

Also on Saturday, Boulud and Bell will confer by phone with five chefs at Boulud-owned restaurants in New York and Las Vegas. All will be participating in a Feb. 9 \$300-a-person dinner at Café Boulud benefiting Share Our Strength, a nonprofit organization working to end childhood hunger in the United States. Boulud has supported the group for years.

"Planning a dinner with many chefs always takes lots of hands-on coordination, but this one is special because all of the chefs are from our own restaurants, making it sort of a family reunion," said Boulud, who's hosting the event with Bell and Café Boulud Patissier Matthew Petersen. "We really know each other's cooking style so we are very inspired to pull out all the stops to impress each other as much as the guests."

Throughout his weekend stay, Boulud said he plans to spend as much time as he can in Café Boulud's kitchen and dining room, a back-and-forth dance he characterizes as "spontaneous."

"I'll reconnect with the young cooks on Zach's team and see old friends. Nothing replaces being with them and with my Palm Beach guests face to face."

For more information about Boulud's book signing or the Share Our Strength dinner, call Cafe Boulud at 655-6060.

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