

SPECIAL REPORT

Sustainable Boston

Boston Business Journal

INNOVATION ▼

HENRIETTA'S TABLE

At **Henrietta's Table**, the promotion of local, sustainable agriculture doesn't stop at the menu.

The Cambridge restaurant, nestled in the **Charles Hotel**, offers a shop stocked with wares from local farms and trading cards to help customers "know your farmers." It often runs promotions to benefit the fledgling farmers and programs of the Farm School in Athol, including its annual "Big Pig Gig" fundraiser. Behind the scenes, employees recycle everything possible.

Leading the restaurant's effort is chef **Peter Davis**. Davis has focused on serving "fresh and honest" food since the restaurant's 1996 opening. A native of Nahant, Davis said he gained an appreciation for using the freshest locally produced ingredients while working in Asia. He continued that bent after relocating to California, drawing on the local farms there.

"When I decided to come back to the Boston area and we were looking for a concept for Henrietta's, we decided that was the way," Davis said.

In 2008, Henrietta's Table bought more than \$175,000 worth of products directly from farmers, and more than 85 percent of its food purchases hail from sustainable agriculture practices.

"We try to buy as much locally as we can, as long as we can get a good consistent supply," Davis said. Sometimes local produce costs more, but the shelf life is longer and flavor is better, he said.

The restaurant has been working with the composting service **Save That Stuff**, sorting trash for biodegradable and compostable waste. Compost pickups occur several times a week. **BioBags** made out of corn are used for waste.

"Once you get the system I don't think it costs anything extra," said Davis, adding that composting helps reduce trash pickups.

"In the long run I think it's saving us money — and it's environmentally correct."

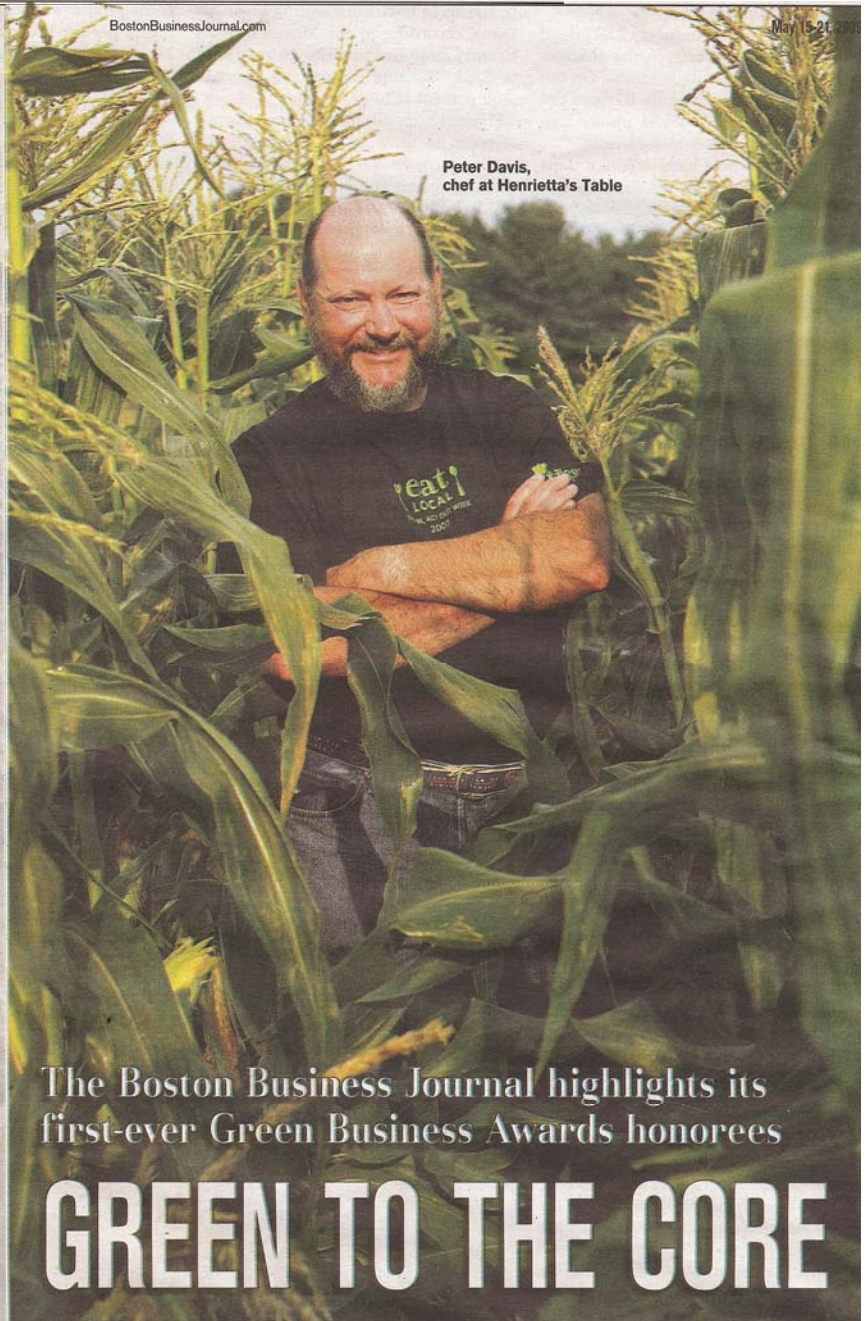
— ROBERTA HOLLAND | Special to the Journal



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BostonBusinessJournal.com

May 15-21, 2009



Peter Davis,
chef at Henrietta's Table

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For the first time, the BBJ is honoring a select group of companies and business leaders who have demonstrated outstanding advances and stewardship in green innovation, invention, design and workplace policies. Our inaugural list includes 13 honorees who fit the bill.

Newsmakers 5.15.09

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