

bon appétit

Chef Invasion! How James Beard Nominees Overtook New York City

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KEYWORDS: [CHEFS](#), [EVENTS](#), [JAMES BEARD AWARDS](#), [PARTIES](#), [PEOPLE](#)

ALEX LAU

Midnight: Chef and co-owner of [Farmstead](#), in Providence, RI, **Matt Jennings** made the trip to Manhattan on Sunday—only after he finished working the weekend brunch shift. He's nominated for Best Chef: Northeast.

He and wife **Kate**, pastry chef and co-owner at Farmstead, dined at [Del Posto](#), eating everything from a



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12:04am: Bonappetit.com staff writer **Rochelle Bilow** (left) talked with Kate (right) and Matt about their journey from cheesemongers to restaurant owners. The couple met while working at **Formaggio Kitchen**. And yep, Matt remembers exactly what Kate was wearing (a white v-neck t-shirt and cut-off jean shorts). Kate remembers that she had to teach Matt how to make coffee



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12:25pm: "I feel like it's becoming easier," said Jennings, describing the process of menu creation and cooking. "I'm just cooking the things that inspire me—not overthinking it. And I'm finally, really doing *me*."



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12:40pm: After dessert, Headley and Ladner brought out a new take on petite fours—traditional Italian cookies, candy, and chocolate—all scattered across the tablecloth. Everyone ate with their hands.