

# Thomas Jefferson MONTICELLO

WINTER 2014

[www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org)

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## Heritage Harvest Festival Covers New Ground

Each year, the Heritage Harvest Festival, a celebration of “founding foodie” and revolutionary gardener Thomas Jefferson, brings thousands of visitors from around the country to Jefferson’s mountaintop home. Over two days, festival-goers can choose from more than 100 programs and workshops, visit with 90 vendors, and sample a bounty of phenomenal food from local farms and restaurants.

New this year, inspired by Jefferson’s taste, his appreciation for the arts and his renowned hospitality, Monticello launched a set

of Festival programs on the Art of Living. Highlights included a panel discussion on wine, entertaining, and design moderated by Designer and Monticello Trustee Charlotte Moss; and individual programs on architecture, fine cuisine and flowers by Monticello experts and special guests, including the founders of The Charleston Academy of Domestic Pursuits and Fearless Flowers.

On Friday, September 12, Aaron Keefer, Culinary Gardener from The French Laundry, an esteemed restaurant in Napa Valley, California, delivered the keynote talk. “Chef Keller started our garden as an educational opportunity for the kitchen staff because he believes that everyone needs to gain an understanding of and respect for where food comes from,” explained

Keefer. “Every night the chefs gather at the end of service to plan the next day’s menu and they are inspired by the produce we make available to them. In turn, I am inspired by their use of such humble ingredients to create something memorable and magical for our guests.” Following the keynote, during an exclusive, farm-to-fork Chefs’ Harvest Dinner, guests enjoyed the sunset from Jefferson’s “high mountain.”

Programs continued on Saturday, September 13. Visitors tasted Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Amish Paste, Abe Lincoln and over one hundred other tomato varieties in the

Tasting Tent. Live bluegrass and folk music inspired dancing in Jefferson’s grove. And, legendary and everyday seed-savers shared knowledge, enthusiasm and seeds during the annual Old Timey Seed Swap.



LEFT: Aaron Keefer, Culinary Gardener from The French Laundry, delivered the keynote talk at the 8th annual Heritage Harvest Festival.

**Save the date**  
for the 9th Annual Heritage Harvest Festival

**SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2015**

