

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME'S
MCKIM GALA TO HONOR
CARLO PETRINI & PAOLO SORRENTINO
ON JUNE 3**

ROME — The American Academy in Rome will honor author/eco-gastronomist **Carlo Petrini** and Oscar-winning filmmaker **Paolo Sorrentino** at the **McKim Gala on June 3** in Rome at **Villa Aurelia**. The annual benefit, one of the highest-profile events of the spring season, celebrates the honorees for their exceptional contributions to Italian culture.

Widely credited for bringing public attention to the development of sustainable food systems, Mr. Petrini is founder of the International Slow Food Movement, as well as the University of Gastronomic Sciences. He is the author of many culinary books and articles linking agriculture and gastronomy, and in 2004 *Time* called him an “Innovator” in their “List of European Heroes.” Mr. Sorrentino has directed and/or written numerous award-winning films. His last movie, *The Great Beauty*, won several major film awards, including an Oscar in 2014 for Best Foreign Language Film, a BAFTA for Best Film Not in the English Language, the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film, as well as Best Film and Best Director at the 2013 European Film Awards. The film was also nominated for the 2013 Palme d'Or.

“The American Academy in Rome is delighted to honor these two immensely talented individuals with the 2015 McKim Medal,” said **Mark Robbins, President of the American Academy in Rome**. “The work of Carlo Petrini and Paolo Sorrentino embody the challenges of independent creative work for which the Academy is known. They both make us think differently about the world – from considering the global impact of how we eat, to the way film is used to help understand the human condition.”

This year's McKim Gala is chaired for the first time by filmmaker and philanthropist **Ginevra Elkann**, who is also a Trustee of the Academy. An international audience from the worlds of the arts and humanities, gastronomy, fashion, design and business will converge on Villa Aurelia to enjoy cocktails in the Villa's gardens before dining in the Secret Garden on a special menu curated by the legendary **Alice Waters**, in collaboration with **Chris Behr**, Executive Chef of the **Academy's Rome Sustainable Food Project**, and California Caterers. A site-specific installation by artist **Martino Gamper** will serve as the stage for the evening's program. Ms. Waters will present Mr. Petrini with his medal, while Mr. Sorrentino's medal will be presented by actress **Valeria Golino**. Honorary Dinner Chairmen for the evening are **Mercedes T. Bass**, **Linda Douglass**, and **Valentina Moncada di Paternò**, along with Founding Dinner Chairman **Verdella Caracciolo de Benedictis**. The gala kicks off a week of

special public events at the Academy, including the annual **Fellows Open Studios, Concert, and Readings**.

“The McKim Gala is an important moment for the Roman and larger Italian community to support an institution that contributes so much to the development of Italian artists and scholars, and to the cultural landscape of Rome.” said Gala Chair Ginevra Elkann.

Corporate sponsors of the 2015 McKim Gala include **Moncler SpA, Bloomberg, Bulgari SpA, Cappelli & Partners, Credit Suisse, Gagosian Gallery, Gianni, Giorgio Armani, Grippio, Gucci, Medusa Film SpA, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Ralph Lauren, Tory Burch, and Valentino SpA**, among many others.

The McKim Medal

The McKim Medal was established by the American Academy in Rome in 2005 as an annual prize that honors an individual whose work – most particularly in Italy and the United States – has contributed significantly to the arts and humanities. Proceeds from the McKim Gala support the American Academy in Rome’s Italian Fellows program, which provides a unique opportunity for Italian scholars and artists to live and work as part of the Academy’s dynamic international community. Previous McKim Medal laureates include **Zaha Hadid, Renzo Piano, Cy Twombly, Umberto Eco, Franco Zeffirelli, Ennio Morricone, Miuccia Prada, Luigi Ontani, Riccardo Muti, and Bernardo Bertolucci**.

The American Academy in Rome

The American Academy in Rome supports innovative artists, writers, and scholars living and working in a dynamic international community.

Founded in 1894, the Academy is the premier American overseas center for independent study and advanced research. A not-for-profit, privately supported institution, the Academy annually offers the Rome Prize Fellowship and Italian Fellowship to approximately 36 individuals, following a competition in which independent juries select candidates across the disciplines of Literature, Music Composition, Visual Arts, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Design, and Historic Preservation and Conservation, as well as Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern, and Modern Italian Studies. The Academy community also includes a curated group of Residents, Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars. This exceptional group of artists and scholars live and work at the Academy campus located in the Janiculum, one of the highest points in the city of Rome. To learn more, please visit: www.aarome.org.

For more information, please contact:

US: Marques McClary +1-212-751-7200 (ext. 342) or +1-646-262-2776 m.mcclary@aarome.org
Italy: Maria Bonmassar | +39 335 490311 | maria.bonmassar@gmail.com