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Paolo Sorrentino, Carlo Petrini to Receive McKim Prize

By [Alessandra Turra](#)

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MILAN — Italian film director Paolo Sorrentino, who last year won an Academy Award with “The Great Beauty,” and Carlo Petrini, president of non-profit Slow Food organization, are to receive the McKim Prize in Rome on Wednesday night.

The award ceremony will take place at the 17th century Villa Aurelia during a gala dinner organized by the American Academy in Rome, which every year hosts a fundraising event to give the opportunity to a few Italian talents focused on liberal arts to spend some time at the academy.

“The board decided to give the prize to Carlo Petrini because in the year of Expo, which features food as its main theme, he is definitely the Italian symbol of Slow Food – also considered that food is becoming more and more important in our culture,” said Ginevra Elkann, who is the chairman of this year’s event. “And of course Paolo Sorrentino is one of the most important flags of the Italian cinema industry.”

American chef and food activist Alice Waters created the menu to be served at the event, which will include sheep’s milk ricotta ravioli with tomato and basil sauce; roasted spring lamb with green olive tapenade; spelt with pine nuts, currants and carrots, as well as a dessert consisting of baked apricots with honey ice cream. The dishes will be all cooked using vegetables coming from the Academy’s garden.

A range of personalities from the film, culture, fashion and business industries will participate at the event. These include Owen Wilson, Bernardo Bertolucci, Luca Guadagnino, Lola Schnabel, Carla and Silvia Fendi, John and Lavinia Elkann, Dante Ferretti, as well as the American ambassador in Italy John Phillips with his wife Linda Douglass, who is honorary chairman of the event.

Moncler, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Valentino, Tory Burch and Ralph Lauren are among the companies who bought tables at the dinner.