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Epicurean Group CEO Touts Jacques Pépin as the Original “Sustainable” Chef

Los Altos, CA (March 21, 2016) – Can an 80-year-old chef be a touchpoint for the new sustainable food movement?

“Jacques Pépin goes far beyond a mere ‘celebrity chef.’ He is an icon to me and other professionals in our field,” said Mary Clark Bartlett, CEO of [Epicurean Group](#), a sustainable on-site food-service management company headquartered in California’s Silicon Valley. In a recent interview as part of an ongoing education effort, the CEO and thought-leader shared insights into sustainable food sourcing and preparation.

Clark Bartlett and Pépin connected at an event in San Rafael at Dominican University of California, an Epicurean Group client. The noted French chef was on a tour to promote his new book, *Heart & Soul in the Kitchen*. The event was part of the Leadership Lecture Series hosted by Dominican’s Institute for Leadership Studies in partnership with Book Passage. At a private reception for the chef, Clark Bartlett welcomed Pépin to Northern California and the two discussed the connection between the current sustainable food movement and Pépin’s authentic style of French country cooking.

“Jacques’s technique of sourcing and preparing seasonal, local food is identical to the one we use in all our facilities,” said Clark Bartlett. “According to Jacques, preparing this type of healthy food ‘transforms nature into culture.’”

A pioneer in the sustainable food-service industry for more than 20 years, Clark Bartlett recently produced an educational video to help companies understand what sustainable food-service really means. “Sustainable food is nutritious food. It supports the local community and promotes a healthy environment.”

“Using honest purchasing practices we source seasonal, local food that our chefs prepare from scratch,” says Clark Bartlett. “It’s been inspirational for me to read *Heart & Soul in the Kitchen* and to continue Jacques Pépin’s proud tradition in our own kitchens.”

Epicurean Group is an independent food-service management company that provides restaurant and catering services to corporations, educational campuses, and fine arts facilities throughout Northern California. Epicurean Group is committed to socially responsible and environmentally sustainable business practices.

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