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Primo Tucson Welcomes New Chef de Cuisine

Eric Larcom joins restaurant's esteemed culinary team

Tucson, AZ (4/21/09) – Primo Tucson at JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa announces a new addition to the culinary team. Eric Larcom has joined the restaurant as Chef de Cuisine. Larcom will bring the distinct flavors and tastes created by Chef Melissa Kelly, Primo's founder, to the restaurant's Tucson location.

Larcom previously worked with Primo from 2005 to 2008 as well as at Starr Pass' Signature Grill from 2008 to 2009 before the opportunity for Chef de Cuisine arose. His experience also includes four years on the culinary team at Arizona Inn.

As Chef de Cuisine, Larcom ensures the highest quality dishes and ingredients are consistently featured on the Primo menu – but these are just two elements of the position. He is also responsible for ordering meats and seafood, among other food choices, maintaining Primo's chef's garden, visiting local farms and farmers' markets for the freshest possible ingredients and working with the community.

Primo is renowned for its fresh, local and organic cuisine. The restaurant makes their own barrel-aged vinegar, bacon and some sausages, and sources many ingredients from local growers.

Larcom notes, "Sustainable food is the future of this planet. We need to learn to leave the smallest footprint we can possibly leave, and we do that by buying local. By resourcing products from as close as possible, we help save natural resources and reduce pollution. At Primo, we want our diners to know every meal that goes into their body is organic, fresh and has minimal adverse impact on our planet."

Primo Restaurant at JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa is one of three Primo restaurants across the country. The original is located in Rockland, Maine, while another is located in Orlando, Florida.

For menus and more information, please visit www.primotucson.com.

About JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa

Having been named to *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Hotels Top 500 List two years running (2008, 2009), Starr Pass draws on the beauty of its mountainous location. The resort incorporates the natural desert as its landscape design theme. With 575 spacious guestrooms, 88,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, five restaurants, a 20,000 sq. ft. spa, four separate pools, a lazy river and water slide, an Arnold Palmer Signature golf facility consisting of 27 holes and practice facilities and 888 underground and covered parking spaces, the resort boasts of being not only the largest resort in southern Arizona but also the only true eco-resort in Tucson. This eco theme extends to its Primo restaurant that serves only organic and jet fresh fish, its Hashani Spa, which uses natural desert plant oils and its direct access to the Tucson Mountain Park for fabulous hiking and mountain biking trails. To quote Bill Marriott, "you can build all types of amenities but it would be impossible to duplicate what Starr Pass has, the Tucson Mountain Park." The JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa is located at 3800 W. Starr Pass and can be reached directly by calling (520) 792-3500. Please visit www.jwmarriottstarrpass.com.

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