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EXECUTIVE CHEF AT MONTEREY MARRIOTT GIVES BACK TO COMMUNITY

Upcoming Classique d' Elegance event is only one of many highlights in the career of a chef driven by a spirit of giving.

Monterey, CA -(10/25/10)- The 14th Annual Classique d' Elegance is almost here and there's at least one man wringing his hands in anticipation, Monterey Marriott Executive Chef Willi Franz. The Classique is a culinary and design extravaganza where chefs and artists collaborate to create the ultimate dining experience that features tremendous gourmet dishes set upon the most creative table settings. The event, which is held at the Spanish Bay Resort at Pebble Beach, benefits the Meals on Wheels food delivery program for homebound seniors. A who's who among the Monterey community annually gathers in attendance for a night of fantasy and exceptional cuisine with a focus on charity. On November 21st, Chef Franz will become a part of this tradition that's geared towards another of his passions.

Willi Franz has been familiar with cooking since his early days. Having earned a degree from a Chicago Culinary School, Chef Franz didn't truly embark on his professional cooking career until he joined Hyatt in 1979 working under a Hungarian Chef for a European Kitchen. After 10 years of refining his craft exploring and experimenting with various cultural cuisines, Chef Franz worked his way up the ranks in the kitchen and has let his culinary passions lead him from Chicago to the nation's capital and since 2007, here in Monterey. Throughout the years Chef Franz has learned more than just the finer points of cooking. His passion for giving has grown along with his culinary prowess. Recently, his contributions have included hosting the Special Kids Crusade Dinner and Auction to benefit children with disabilities. He was also a part of the Cooking for Solutions benefit that supports the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program. Even after being inducted into the prestigious Les Toques Blanches society of professional chefs and appearing on the Food Network, Chef Franz is driven as much by his passion for giving as cooking. The upcoming Classique d' Elegance is just another opportunity for him to indulge in the two things that have given his life important meaning over the years. For more information about Executive Chef Willi Franz, contact Julie Mash at julie.mash@marriott.com.



About the Monterey Marriott

The Monterey, California Marriott hotel features fully-renovated, smoke-free guest rooms with luxurious Revive bedding and complimentary bath amenities. Guests can enjoy high-speed wireless Internet access from many public areas, including the lobby and San Carlos Ballroom Foyer. This Monterey hotel offers two unique restaurants: Three Flags Cafe and Characters Sports Bar and Grill. Exceptional catering services are available for weddings and conferences. Opportunities for on-site recreation include a day spa, heated outdoor pool and fitness center with LCD screens on every cardio machine. For more information about the hotel, visit www.marriott.com/MRYCA