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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southwest Culinary Event of the Year "Phoenix Cooks" Returns to JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa

Over Labor Day Weekend, foodies gather at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa for food, wine and spirit sampling to benefit local hospital.

Phoenix, AZ - Food lovers, unite! <u>Phoenix Cooks</u>, the top culinary event of the year in the Valley, returns to JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa this Labor Day Weekend on September 3.

Benefitting <u>Phoenix Children's Hospital</u>, Phoenix Cooks provides great fun during the holiday weekend with a full day of delicious food, wine, spirit and beverage samplings, plus interactive cooking classes and gourmet kitchen stage demonstrations by top chefs of Phoenix strutting their creative cooking styles and unique talents.



Against the gorgeous backdrop of this <u>Phoenix resort</u>, lively chef challenges, "Two Chefs in a Kitchen," will take place. These events showcase top Valley chefs' talents. Chefs also share their secrets and specialty dishes from various restaurant menus on the high-performance cooking stages.

Phoenix Cooks is all about foodie fun; indulging in delectable cuisine from more than 50 fabulous restaurants from around Arizona; learning Top Chef-style techniques from Food Network; and, during interactive culinary classes, enjoying wine, beer and spirit tastings. Attendees can also shop for the ultimate kitchen equipment, glassware, knives and latest in cooking gadgets. JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort's award-winning Executive Pastry Chef Kaushik Chowdhury will be conducting a "Chocolate Affair" class at Phoenix Cooks. The class teaches guests new and refined ways to work with and create gourmet-style chocolate pastries.

Representing some of the best in <u>Phoenix dining</u>, the resort's culinary team will be serving samples of its restaurant menus at Phoenix Cooks. Dishes include Ranchero pulled pork taco with pico de gallo and cabbage slaw from Blue Sage; fresh black pepper fettuccine, speck ham, cipollini onions, and Pecorino served by Tuscany; a rich lobster bisque from Meritage Steakhouse; and chocolate strawberry bon bons and chocolate nut clusters from the resort's National Champion Pastry Team.

The JW Marriott Desert Ridge offers a <u>Phoenix Hotel Deal</u> with the Phoenix Cooks Culinary Two-Night Package, available September 2 through September 3, including a deluxe guest room for two nights; one ticket to a Taste of Desert Ridge reception on September 2; and one ticket to the Phoenix Cooks event on September 3. This Phoenix resort hotel deal starts from \$339 single occupancy.

Taste of Desert Ridge festivities are from 6:30 to 9 pm on September 2 in the Wildflower Ballroom and Terrace of JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort. Culinary samplings will be offered from the resort's featured restaurants—Tuscany, Meritage Steakhouse and Blue Sage. Multiple food stations will serve tomahawk steak with an orange gremolata and veal reduction, porcini cauliflower lasagna with mascarpone cheese and duck confit. A dessert station will feature a warm Granny Smith apple tart with a buttermilk blueberry gelato, triple chocolate napoleon and much more.

Phoenix Cooks at <u>JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort</u> on September 3 is the ultimate food and libations experience in the Southwest!

In addition to the annual Phoenix Cooks event, JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort offers unique experiences such as its Chocolate Affair class hosted by the resort's winning pastry team every Saturday, jazz festivals featuring national artists, and the new Family Escape Club providing fun and education for teens and kids of all ages.

About the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa

Arizona's largest luxury resort features 950 newly-remodeled guestrooms, 10 dining experiences, the renowned Revive Spa, eight tennis courts and four acres of shimmering pools and waterways including the celebrated Lazy River with a serpentine slide, and two championship golf courses. JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa is located where Phoenix meets Scottsdale, just 20 minutes north of Sky Harbor International Airport, with easy access to the Loop 101 freeway. For more information about JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa located at 5350 E. Marriott Drive in Phoenix, call 800-835-6206 or visit www.marriott.com/phxdr.