

FESTIVAL GOURMET INTERNATIONAL SERVES UP A FEAST FOR THE SENSES NOVEMBER 8th – 18th, 2007

RIVIERA NAYARIT, Mexico - Mexico's newest destination, Riviera Nayarit, and its neighbor Puerto Vallarta will host the annual Festival Gourmet International from November 8th to 18th, 2007. Featuring the region's most acclaimed restaurants (24 in total this year); guests will have the opportunity to sample special menus celebrating the Festival Gourmet International, available at these establishments daily. **For more information on the Festival Gourmet International please visit www.FestivalGourmet.com.**

Celebrating its 13th year this year, the Festival Gourmet International will also offer access to exclusive chef's tables at participating restaurants, wine and cheese events, food demonstrations, tequila tastings and gala dinners featuring the best of the Pacific Coast's gourmet cuisine. Guest chefs from all over the world are also invited to participate and share their signature dishes at participating restaurants during the ten days of the Festival.

This year's participating restaurants in Riviera Nayarit include: Frascatti in La Cruz de Huanacastle; Aramara at the Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita; Piaf at the Grand Velas Resort & Spa, Nuevo Vallarta; Tramonto at the Grand Mayan Resort, Nuevo Vallarta; Bellavista at the Marival All Inclusive Grand & Club Suites and the spectacular Sunday Gourmet Brunch at Villa del Palmar Flamingos Hotel in Flamingos.

Festival Gourmet International's event highlights include the following:

- **Cocktail Reception & Welcome, November 8th at 8:00 p.m.** - The opening ceremony and cocktail party for the Festival Gourmet International takes place this year at Thierry's Prime Steak House and features all the participating chefs and live entertainment
- **Master Chefs Cooking Demonstration, November 12th - 14th, 9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.** - Organized by chef Roland Menetrey, these demonstrations will take place in three locations, Thierry Blouet's Cocina de Autor; CocoTropica and Mikado at the Marriot CasaMagna (all in Puerto Vallarta). Demonstrations will also be accompanied by lunch paired with wines
- **Cheeses of the World Tasting, November 15th, 1:00 p.m.** - Taking place at the Casa Velas Hotel Boutique in Marina Vallarta, the tasting will feature delightful cheeses like Quesos Caprina of Atotonilco paired with the exquisite wines of Monte Xanic
- **Grand Gala Dinner, November 16th, 8:30 p.m.** - The Grand Gala Dinner takes place this year at the Grand Velas Resort & Spa in Nuevo Vallarta, Riviera Nayarit complete with a sumptuous gourmet dinner, live entertainment and fireworks display
- **Chef's Table and Wine Tasting, November 10th – 15th, 20:00p.m** - Discover signature dishes of our special guest chefs through their "Chefs Table", in which twelve selected restaurants prepare an exquisite gourmet dinner partnered with a wine selection

The Festival was founded by chefs Thierry Blouet of Café des Artistes, Heinz Reize of Hotel Krystal and Silvan Müller of Nestlé Mexico. The ten day festival was conceived to enrich the profile of Riviera Nayarit and Puerto Vallarta's gastronomic scene locally and internationally. In the past the Festival has attracted over 250 chefs and top names such as chef Gerald Dupont, chef president of the Academie Culinaire de France; three-star Michelin chef Anton Mosimann from London, Thomas Salamunovich, chef and owner of Larkspur in Vail; Patricia Quintana, the "first lady" of Mexican cuisine. In 2006, the line-up of guest chefs featured Alain Hacquard and Mickael Fournier of Laperouse y Valrhona in Paris, Matt Janke of Matt's in the Market in Seattle, Rebecca Weitzman of Café Star in Denver, Jeff Inahara of Savoir-Faire in San Francisco and

Dean James Max of 3030 Ocean in Fort Lauderdale.

The Festival Gourmet International has attracted thousands of visitors from Mexico and around the world who wish to experience the world's finest cuisine while enjoying the beaches and resort activities. This year's events promise to be bigger, with new culinary options to sample.

About Riviera Nayarit

Riviera Nayarit is Mexico's newest travel destination stretching along 100 miles of pristine Pacific coast framed by spectacular mountains to the north of renowned Puerto Vallarta. Mostly undeveloped, the destination extends from the resorts of Nuevo Vallarta to the historic, colonial town of San Blas, including exclusive Punta Mita and the spectacular Banderas Bay. The region features luxury resorts and eco-tourism boutique hotels, world-renowned surfing, four professional golf courses, rare native wildlife including sea turtles and tropical birds, mountain and island adventures, shopping for local artwork and traditional Huichol handicrafts, charming fishing towns and miles of serene beaches. For more information, visit: www.RivieraNayarit.com

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