



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Rachel Irwin

Allison & Partners

619-533-7973

rachel@allisonpr.com

Executive Chef Brian Puett Brings Southwestern Flair to Mesa Verde National Park's Metate Room in 2009

Mesa Verde National Park, Colo., March 6, 2009 — ARAMARK Mesa Verde National Park announced today that Executive Chef Brian Puett will be leading the culinary services at restaurants throughout Mesa Verde in 2009, including the park's only fine-dining establishment, the Metate Room, located in the Far View Lodge.

Chef Puett brings a colorful and diverse background to Mesa Verde's restaurants, enhanced while growing up in an assortment of eastern and western states, including a three year stay in Japan while his family traveled with the Air Force. His passion for travel has allowed Chef Puett to spice up his repertoire of international culinary favorites while savoring adventuresome food dishes that will help expand the Metate Room's menu in 2009.

Chef Puett is currently putting the finishing touches on the 2009 Metate Room menu, which will be unveiled at the opening of the Far View Lodge on April 23, 2009. Chef Puett will continue the tradition of creating cotemporary interpretations of heritage foods from the original Mesa Verde inhabitants, while maintaining ARAMARK's commitment to sustainable and organic cuisine in the menus of the park's four restaurants.

His signature dessert "*Napoleon Looking West*" features locally-grown grilled seasonal fruit, layered in stratum with sweet mascarpone cream, crispy wontons and kissed with a java-caramel sauce. This delicacy richly reveals his truly fundamental fusion cooking skills.

Chef Puett began his career in restaurant consultancy in the Denver after graduating from the Art Institute of Colorado. Chef Puett joined ARAMARK's Lake Powell Resorts



and Marinas staff in 2003, where his commitment to Southwestern cuisine helped propel his interest of fusion cooking to create an unparalleled skill set perfect for the southwestern flavors of the Metate Room.

Far View Lodge in Mesa Verde National Park, featured among the “Best High-Altitude Hotels” by *Travel + Leisure*, opens on April 23, 2009. We invite early bird visitors to Mesa Verde this season to take advantage of a special deal offered at Far View Lodge from April 23 until May 21. The “Spring Into Mesa Verde” package offers a one-night stay, with breakfast for two, as well as a half-day ranger guided bus tour including Cliff Palace for \$199. More details are available at <http://www.visitmesaverde.com/specials>

About Mesa Verde National Park

Named "The Number One Historic Monument in the World" by Conde Nast Traveler, "One of 50 Places to Visit in a Lifetime" by National Geographic Traveler and a "Top 10 Fodor's Destination," Mesa Verde National Park was established by Congress on June 29, 1906, to preserve from injury or spoliation the ruins and other works and relics of prehistoric humans. The park contains world-renowned dwellings of the Ancestral Pueblo peoples within 52,000 acres, 8,000 of which have been designated by Congress as protected wilderness areas. In 1978, in recognition of the park's significance to the world community, Mesa Verde National Park was named a World Cultural Heritage Site as part of the World Heritage Convention, whose purpose is to recognize natural and cultural areas around the world that have outstanding values of importance to all humankind. For more information, log on to www.visitmesaverde.com.

About ARAMARK Parks and Destinations

ARAMARK Parks and Destinations, a division of ARAMARK, provides a wide range of professional services, including property management, hospitality services and recreational support to specialty hotels, resorts, national and state parks, national forest service and other tourist destinations throughout the United States. ARAMARK Parks and Destinations seeks to create memorable experiences at destinations by bringing the best in environmental stewardship, sustainable cuisine and interpretive programs to the guests it serves. For more information on ARAMARK Parks and Destinations and each of its properties, visit www.aramarkparksanddestinations.com.

Concessions at Mesa Verde are managed by ARAMARK Mesa Verde Company and authorized by the National Park Service.