



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Amy Toosley
Allison & Partners
(619) 533-7976
amy@allisonpr.com

**Annual Wine-Pairing Dinner, Lodging Package Highlight Mesa Verde's
Sixth Annual Wine & Art Festival**

Mesa Verde National Park, CO, July 2, 2008 — ARAMARK Mesa Verde Company, which manages lodging and concessions for Mesa Verde National Park, will host its annual special Winemakers' Dinner at the acclaimed Metate Room restaurant at the Far View Lodge on Aug. 22, 2008. The dinner is part of the 6th Annual Mesa Verde Country[®] Wine & Art Festival, taking place that weekend, Aug. 22–24, 2008, in Cortez City Park.

The annual Wine & Art Festival celebrates and showcases the locally produced wines of some of Colorado's finest wineries and vintners, as well as the acclaimed artists of Southwestern Colorado. For \$75 per person, the Winemakers' Dinner will feature a multi-course menu of Southwestern and Native American specialties including: roasted beet with herb goat cheese and pancetta salad; hot-smoked native Rocky Mountain Trout with prosciutto and organic micro cilantro-toasted shallots, citrus broth and red chili oil; Verde Farms baby eggplant with pancetta, James Ranch fontina cheese, Stone Free Farms opal basil and smoked tomato chutney; natural Colorado beef sirloin, Stone Free Farms garlic, organic asparagus, gorgonzola and Yukon Gold potato puree; and double cream blackberry ice cream with a maple corn cake and pine nut praline sauce. Each course of the menu, created and prepared by Executive Chef Max Elliss, is designed to complement Colorado wines selected by resident Executive Sommelier Bryan Totel.

"This annual dinner remains one of our favorite annual events and a unique opportunity to showcase the Metate Room's selection of Southwestern heritage cuisine, featuring both indigenous and sustainable

ingredients, as well as our extensive list of local and regional wines,” said Judith Swain, director of sales and marketing, ARAMARK Mesa Verde.

Guests who would like to experience the Winemakers’ Dinner as well as the weekend festivities in Cortez City Park can take advantage of a special package being offered by ARAMARK Mesa Verde Company.

For \$539 per couple*, the Wine & Arts Festival package includes the following:

- Two tickets to the Friday night Winemakers’ Dinner at 6 p.m. (one seating only)
- Admission for two at the Wine Festival in Cortez City Park on Saturday
- A two-night stay at the Far View Lodge inside Mesa Verde
- A full American breakfast buffet for two each morning
- A half-day ranger-guided tour of Mesa Verde National Park for two, including Cliff Palace and Chapin Mesa
- A welcome bottle of Colorado wine

**Price does not include tax or gratuities and applies to the standard rooms; an upgrade to Kiva room is an additional \$70. Valid on arrivals August 21-22 only.*

Reservations for the Winemakers’ Dinner are required and can be made by calling 800-449-2288. For more information on the Mesa Verde Country® Wine & Art Festival, please visit www.mesaverdecountry.com. For more information on Mesa Verde or the Metate Room restaurant or to book a Wine & Arts lodging package, please call (800) 449-2288 or visit www.visitmesaverde.com

###

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.

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