



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mesa Verde’s Metate Room Restaurant Receives “Award of Culinary Excellence”  
from the American Culinary Federation Colorado Chefs Association**

**Mesa Verde National Park, Colo., Jan. 19, 2010** — Metate Room Restaurant, located in the Far View Lodge at Mesa Verde National Park, has received the American Culinary Federation Colorado Chefs Association’s (ACFCCA) first-ever “Award of Culinary Excellence.” Metate Room Restaurant is one of six winners and the only restaurant located within a national park to receive the award.

Executive chef, Brian Puett, and director of sales and marketing of ARAMARK at Mesa Verde, Judith Swain, accepted the award during the ACFCCA President Award’s Reception on Monday, Jan. 18 at the Governor’s Residence in Denver.

The culinary excellence awards are based on a variety of criteria, including menu selection, creativity, presentation, taste and the restaurant’s support of local Colorado cuisine. The award highlighted Metate Room Restaurant’s involvement with “Colorado Proud,” a program created by the Colorado Department of Agriculture to promote Colorado food and agricultural products. This past summer, Chef Brian Puett competed in the Colorado State Fair cook-off as a part of the program.

“ARAMARK’s chefs are known for creating regional dishes that incorporate sustainable cuisine and organic ingredients, and Metate Room Restaurant and Chef Puett are shining examples of that commitment,” said Swain.

“On behalf of ARAMARK Parks and Destinations and Metate Room Restaurant, it is an honor to receive this prestigious award that encourages and recognizes chefs who incorporate sustainable and locally-grown ingredients in their menus,” said Executive Chef Puett.



Chef Puett became head chef of Metate Room Restaurant in early 2009 and has since continued the tradition of creating contemporary interpretations of heritage foods from the original Mesa Verde inhabitants, while maintaining ARAMARK's commitment to incorporating sustainable and organic ingredients in all menus. His signature dessert "*Napoleon Looking West*" features locally-grown grilled seasonal fruit, layered with sweet mascarpone cream, crispy wontons and kissed with a java-caramel sauce.

"Metate Room Restaurant is a distinguished leader among its peers and embodies the very best of Colorado culinary excellence," said Joan Brewster, executive director of the American Culinary Federation Colorado Chefs Association. "As the only restaurant located within a national park to receive this award, we are honored to highlight the fine work of Metate Room Restaurant's culinary staff and their dedication to offering guests the finest homegrown cuisine Colorado has to offer."

For a complete list of award winners and more information, please visit [www.acfcoloradochefs.org](http://www.acfcoloradochefs.org). For more information on Metate Room Restaurant, Far View Lodge and Mesa Verde National Park, please visit [www.visitmesaverde.com](http://www.visitmesaverde.com).

**Editor's note:** photos available upon request.

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### **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](http://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](http://www.aramarkparksanddestinations.com).

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