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Mesa Verde National Park Announces Season Kickoff of Far View Lodge

New Chef, Packages, Events make Mesa Verde a Highlight in the Four Corners Region in 2009

Mesa Verde National Park, Colo., May 6, 2009 — ARAMARK Mesa Verde Company today announced the 2009 season opening of the Far View Lodge, the only full-service hotel located inside the park. Highlights of the 2009 season will include a new menu offered at the Metate Room by Executive Chef Brian Puett, family-themed packages, and special festivals to showcase the history of the region.

Situated 8,250 feet above sea level, the Far View Lodge was recently named one of the best high-elevation hotels by *Travel + Leisure*. It offers guests spectacular views – including the shimmering red desert and canyons of northern New Mexico to the south, the snow-covered La Plata mountain range to the east, the verdant Mancos Valley and the lofty San Juan mountain range to the north and the stately silhouette of the “Sleeping Ute” formation and Utah’s Abajo and LaSalle mountain ranges to the west.

New to the park this year is Executive Chef Brian Puett, who unveiled his new menu for the Metate Room, an upscale restaurant inside Far View Lodge that features contemporary, sustainable interpretations of heritage foods with a Southwestern flair. To highlight Chef Brian Puett’s new flavors in 2009, Mesa Verde’s Far View Lodge is hosting a series of “**Taste of the Mesa**” **sustainable cuisine workshops** beginning in August. The workshops include overnight accommodations, chef’s demos and wine tastings of regional sustainable cuisine and wines, a four-course chef’s table dinner paired with fine Colorado wines, and a NPS guided tour of Mesa Verde’s ancient sites, cliff dwellings, and early farming terraces.

The **sustainable cuisine workshop package** starts at \$359 per person, including two nights’ lodging at Far View Lodge and souvenir wine glasses. Workshops are scheduled

for Aug.23-25, 2009, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2009, and Oct.11-13, 2009. For reservations, call 866-292-8295 or visit www.visitmesaverde.com.

Guests looking to explore the history of Mesa Verde National Park, the largest archaeological preserve in North America, will enjoy an array of festivals and events at the park and surrounding communities throughout 2009. In conjunction with the Cortez Cultural Center, Mesa Verde National Park is participating in the **Ute Mountain/Mesa Verde Birding Festival**. Held May 14-17, 2009, the festival offers travelers the opportunity to view rare species of birds found in the varied habitats in Southwestern Colorado. The event will include workshops, an art show, and a special dinner speaker during the festival weekend. For more information, please visit <http://www.mesaverdecountry.com/tourism/festivals/birding/birdfest.html>.

The ninth annual Indian Arts and Culture Festival, held May 22-31, 2009, will celebrate the area's Native American heritage and feature several events including an Indian Art Market and auction, and live dance and music performances showcasing the region's history and culture. Mesa Verde is offering a special Indian Arts and Culture package, priced at \$399 for two, which includes a two night stay at the Far View Lodge, full American breakfast, and a half-day, ranger-guided tour, along with admission to the featured festival concert at the historic Mancos Opera House. For more information, please call 866-292-8295 or visit www.visitmesaverde.com.

For more information on Mesa Verde and the Far View Lodge, please visit www.visitmesaverde.com.

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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.

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.