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Grace Bay Resorts Announces Guest Chefs, Winemakers and Schedule of Events for the Third Annual Caribbean Food & Wine Festival

by **Santé Review Panel** | August 14, 2013



Providenciales, Turks and Caicos

(August 13, 2013) – Grace Bay Resorts, in partnership with the Turks and Caicos Tourist Board and The Wine Cellar, today announces the official schedule for the Third Annual Caribbean Food & Wine Festival. The weekend-long culinary extravaganza will take place October 31 through November 2, 2013, and will include treats and eats from New York City’s famed Christina Tosi of Momofuku Milk Bar and Tiffany Derry, fan favorite from Season 7 of Bravo’s ‘Top Chef’, as well as Xoliswa Ndoyiya, Nelson Mandela’s personal chef of more than 20 years, among others. The highly anticipated Gourmet Safari, now in its seventh year, remains the marquee event with an exclusive dine-around to the island’s most sought-after restaurants. Additionally, the first ‘Women of Wine’ luncheon makes its debut this year, further establishing the festival as the Turks and Caicos leading epicurean event.



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Guest Chefs

The third annual event welcomes Chef Xoliswa Ndoyiya, who assumed the role of Nelson Mandela's personal chef for more than 20 years. A Queenstown, South Africa native, Xoliswa first learned to cook in her mother's and grandmother's kitchens, and was introduced to the Mandelas through a family friend. During her time as Mandela's personal chef, she accompanied him on his travels all over the world, catering family reunions and late-night political strategy sessions, as well as preparing meals for high-profile guests including Oprah Winfrey, Bill Clinton and Danny Glover. This year, Xoliswa will lead the first 'Women of Wine' luncheon on Friday. She will also join the 'Dinner with the Stars' closing dinner event on Saturday evening.

Best known as a contestant on Bravo's 'Top Chef', Chef Tiffany Derry also joins the third annual event as a headliner for the Welcome Dinner on Thursday evening. She will also participate in the 'Dinner with the Stars' event on Saturday. A native of Beaumont, Texas, Tiffany began her culinary career at the local International House of Pancakes, where she became the youngest manager in the company's history, before attending the Art Institute of Houston and becoming an instructor at the Art Institute of Dallas Culinary School. Tiffany competed in Top Chef's Season 7 in 2010 and again among the All-Star Chefs on Season 8. Since Top Chef, Tiffany has focused on giving back to her community, working with the Dallas Independent School District to revamp the school program with healthier options for students and serving as the national spokesperson for the Culinary Arts Program at the Art Institutes.

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Christina Tosi, chef, owner and founder of New York City's Momofuku Milk Bar, complements this year's celebration, serving her infamous 'crackpie' dessert and pineapple upside down cake truffles at the Welcome and Closing dinners. Momofuku Milk Bar is the bakery-inspired dessert branch of David Chang's Momofuku restaurant group, and presents a playful and approachable spin on familiar home-style desserts and savory snacks. As the founder of the dessert program at Momofuku, Christina helped Momofuku Ko earn two stars from the Michelin Guide in 2009. She was also the recipient of the 2012 James Beard Rising Star Chef award.

"We are thrilled and humbled to welcome this all-star cast of internationally-recognized chefs for the third annual event, and we attribute their participation to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved with the planning process," says Nikheel Advani, Co-Chair, Caribbean Food & Wine Festival. "Thanks to the boutique nature of this event, our guests have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to interact directly with guest chefs and wine makers. It is yet another example of how the Turks and Caicos Islands are redefining service and creating memorable experiences in the Caribbean."



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Guest Wineries

This year the festival welcomes new winemakers including Christopher Silva, President and CEO of St. Francis Winery & Vineyards and Richard Friedman of Moreson Farm, a family-owned winery located just outside Franschoek, South Africa. Tuck Beckstoffer of Napa Valley is among these turning winemakers.

As an exciting surprise addition, this year's festival welcomes Tukwini Mandela from the House of Mandela, a winery located in South Africa. Descendant of a royal bloodline that dates back to the 18th century, the Mandela Family is dedicated to the preservation of their rich history, culture and family, and wine serves as the family's bridge between the past, present, and future. In an effort to continue their ancestors' commitment to compassion, The House of Mandela is fair trade certified and donates a portion of its profits to The House of Mandela Family Foundation and the Africa Rising Foundation.

"The Caribbean Food & Wine Festival allows us to spotlight the remarkable culinary talent we have here in Turks and Caicos, and elevate the dining experience for visitors and guests by partnering with some of the world's best chefs and winemakers for a truly unique experience year after year," says Anthony Garland, Co-Chair, Caribbean Food & Wine Festival. "The event continues to draw an overwhelmingly positive response from both its participants and attendees, and we greatly look forward to adding new and exciting events that keep our guests coming back."



Schedule of Events

The festivities commence on Thursday, October 31, with the Welcome Dinner led by Chef Tiffany Derry, followed by a Patron-sponsored After-Party at The Regent Palms.

On Friday, the first 'Women of Wine' luncheon will feature dishes prepared by Chef Xoliswa Ndoiyi and carefully selected wine pairings. That evening, the Gourmet Safari will lead guests on a culinary adventure around Providenciales. Guests will whet their appetite with innovative cocktails courtesy of Grace Bay Club, and then proceed to the appetizer course hosted by Coyaba. From there, guests will enjoy two main courses at Seven Stars and The Regent Palms, before concluding with dessert at The Gansevoort hotel.



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On Saturday, November 2, guests are invited to attend the second annual 'Island Street Food Fair,' showcasing the expert grilling and barbeque techniques of twelve chefs from the island. Following the street fair, guests will participate in a four-course food and wine pairing, including meat, seafood, cheese, and chocolate courses. That evening, all three guest chefs will headline 'Dinner with the Stars' at Grace Bay Club.

"Outstanding food and wine, expert guest chefs and lively conversation, all complemented by the beautiful shores of Turks and Caicos create an unparalleled culinary experience in the Caribbean," says Ralph Higgs, Director of Tourism for Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board. "The Turks & Caicos Tourist Board is proud to support the Third Annual Caribbean Food & Wine Festival, and it has been a delight to see the event grow into such a treasured island tradition in only a few short years. This is a must-attend event for foodies and wine connoisseurs around the world, and we look forward to seeing residents and visitors come together to participate in this year's festivities."

Grace Bay Resorts hosted the Second Annual Caribbean Food & Wine Festival on November 1-3, 2012, with the sold out event bringing together the best and brightest in the hospitality and culinary industries. Already acclaimed as the island's premier culinary event, the festival is hosted annually to celebrate Caribbean cuisine and culture. This year's event promises to continue the success of the Turks and Caicos Islands tradition.

For tickets and additional event information, please visit www.caribbeanfoodandwinefestivaltci.com or contact info@caribbeanfoodandwinefestivaltci.com.





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About Turks and Caicos

The 40 islands of the Turks and Caicos, of which eight are inhabited, are renowned for their award-winning beaches, diving and array of world-class resorts. Additional activities include tennis, golf and horseback riding. The Islands feature a variety of spa and body treatment services and is home to the world's only conch farm. There are three daily 90-minute direct flights from Miami, a US Airways direct flight from Charlotte, twice weekly flights from New York and weekly flights from Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Toronto. For more information on travel, visit the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board's website at www.turksandcaicostourism.com or call (800) 241-0824.