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Asilomar Conference Grounds Hires Chef Danny Abbruzzese to Emphasize Local, Sustainable Cuisine

State Park Property Redefines Healthy Dining by the Beach

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif. – May 5, 2010 – Asilomar Conference Grounds, managed by ARAMARK Parks and Destinations, announces new executive chef Danny Abbruzzese and his long-term efforts to emphasize sustainable and organic cuisine offerings at this unique conference facility within a state park. Since ARAMARK took over operations at Asilomar Conference Grounds in late 2009, Abbruzzese and his team have revamped the food and beverage operations, which include a full catering menu, group-style dining, and eight live action stations at Crocker Dining Hall.

A hidden gem in Pacific Grove, Asilomar Conference Grounds draws upon its rustic setting and beachside location to highlight local ingredients, including fresh fish, organic fruits and vegetables, and California cheese and wine. ARAMARK is continuing the long-standing tradition of working with local suppliers, including the Coke Farm, Happy Boy Farm, and Fresh Point Purveyor, to serve high-quality ingredients and seasonal specialties.

Asilomar Conference Grounds is also a proud partner of the neighboring Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program, which certifies that seafood suppliers obtain fish from sustainable environments. In 2008, ARAMARK announced an official partnership with the Seafood Watch Program, in which ARAMARK commits to following new practices that guide its purchases of sustainable seafood for all operations across the United States. Abbruzzese will be participating in Cooking for Solutions, the annual sustainable cuisine event held at the Monterey Bay Aquarium May 21-22, 2010.

Abbruzzese received his culinary degree from Johnson and Wales University in Vail, Colorado, where he discovered his passion for sustainable cuisine. After graduation, he oversaw operations at Shrine Mountain Inn and went on to work at the prestigious Gainey Ranch in Scottsdale, Arizona. Abbruzzese has spent the past decade in food operations for various hotels throughout Monterey, including the opening of the Bernardus Lodge, Highlands Inn, Quail Lodge, and the Monterey Peninsula Country Club.

“We are thrilled that Chef Danny’s vast experience and expertise in working with Central California cuisine specialties lends to a unique dining experience for our meetings guests as well as tourists,” said Mike Boyer, director of sales and marketing at Asilomar Conference Grounds.

Asilomar Conference Grounds is committed to continually refreshing the menu to include new seasonal variations, fresh vegetables and seafood options for meetings, weddings and special events. The staff at Asilomar Conference Grounds works with meeting and event planners to create a unique group-style dining experience that facilitates interaction among guests and the kitchen staff. Custom-planned menus include the Signature Boardwalk Barbecue, prepared in an oceanside fire pit complete with picnic tables and red-checked tablecloths.

Asilomar Conference Ground’s sustainable cuisine efforts are a part of ARAMARK’s Green Thread Program, which develops long-term environmental stewardship programs and policies within the areas of Food Purchasing; Supply Chain; Building Operations; Energy and Water Conservation; Transportation and Waste Management.

For more information about Asilomar Conference Grounds, please visit www.visitasilomar.com or call (831) 642-4226.

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About Asilomar Conference Grounds

Asilomar, which carries a loose translation for “refuge by the sea,” is situated adjacent to Asilomar State Beach and along the shoreline of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Built in 1913 and designed by California’s first female architect, Julia Morgan, well-known for her work on Hearst Castle, another ARAMARK-managed property, Asilomar is a cozy, peaceful sanctuary set among the Monterey pines and cypresses. For more information on Asilomar Conference Grounds, visit www.visitasilomar.com.

About ARAMARK Parks and Destinations

ARAMARK Parks and Destinations, a division of ARAMARK, delivers authentic and memorable experiences at national and state parks, national forests, specialty hotels, museums, and other tourist destinations throughout the United States. In partnership with its clients, ARAMARK Parks and Destinations seeks to enhance the guest experience by offering industry-leading hospitality, environmental stewardship, recreational, and interpretive programs. For more information on ARAMARK Parks and Destinations and each of its properties, visit www.aramarkparksanddestinations.com.