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THE RITZ-CARLTON, GRAND CAYMAN ANNOUNCES EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE LINE-UP FOR CAYMAN COOKOUT 2020

Distinguished Caribbean resort presents extraordinary food and beverage experiences and intimate access to some of the world's most beloved chefs



GEORGE TOWN, GRAND CAYMAN – SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 – [The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman](#) is thrilled to announce the impressive line-up of activities and events for the Twelfth Annual Cayman Cookout. Located on idyllic Seven Mile Beach, the celebrated resort invites guests from Thursday, January 16 through Monday, January 20, 2020 to join an exclusive gastronomic weekend featuring a diverse collection of immersive cooking demonstrations, delectable epicurean experiences, poolside parties and beachside relaxation that can only be found in Grand Cayman.

Known as the culinary capital of the Caribbean, The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman is joined by Chef Eric Ripert, who helms the resort's signature restaurant, Blue, to bring together some of the world's most talented chefs and creative culinary minds including **José Andrés, Andrew Zimmern, Emeril Lagasse, Dominique Crenn, Clare Smyth, Daniel Boulud, Dean Max, Niki Nakayama, Stephanie Izard, Laetitia Rouabah, Normand Laprise, Pano I. Karatassos** and **Thomas Raquel**, who will host intimate events throughout the weekend. This year, the esteemed roster of celebrity chefs are joined by American weather forecaster and NBC's TODAY Show host, Al Roker, who in addition to being a foodie himself, will also be hosting select events throughout the weekend.

There are more than 74 experiences scheduled throughout the Cayman Cookout weekend including returning signature events and new compelling programs aimed to delight foodies from all over the world. Highlights for the weekend include:

José and Ripert Face-off – Paella vs. Bouillabaisse

Headlining chefs and longtime friends Eric Ripert and José Andrés will face-off in a battle of traditions in the newest experience to enter the culinary weekend. Chef Ripert will defend Southern France's favorite fish stew, the bouillabaisse, while Chef Andrés will prepare one of Spain's favorites, Paella.

Essential BAM!!! with Emeril Lagasse

American celebrity chef, restaurateur, television personality, cookbook author and culinary award winner, Chef Emeril promises a cooking demonstration that displays his passion for the mastery of Creole and Cajun cuisine

in his own “New New Orleans” style. Emeril’s passion for food will kick this year’s Cayman Cookout up a notch.

The Beach Bash, Hosted by Al Roker of NBC’s TODAY Show

A signature event of the weekend, The Beach Bash will bring guests across the turquoise waters to Stingray City, Chef Ripert’s favorite destination to swim, snorkel and revel in a distinctly Caymanian experience. Hosted by Al Roker of NBC’s TODAY Show, Beach Bash will entice guests with shaded shores and a street food extravaganza alongside Chefs Emeril Lagasse and Laetitia Rouabah, among others.

Barefoot BBQ at Royal Palms

Chefs Eric Ripert, José Andrés, Andrew Zimmern and other local and internationally acclaimed chefs will harmonize sizzling grills on the beach with breaking waves coming ashore alongside hand-crafted cocktails, savory delights and live music.

Bon Vivant Chef Competition Brunch, Hosted by Al Roker of NBC’s TODAY Show

Sunday Brunch is complete with endless pours of Moët & Chandon champagne as Grand Cayman’s most ambitious chefs duel in a live cook-off at the Cayman Islands Royal Ballroom. Hosted by Al Roker of NBC’s TODAY Show and Bon Vivant’s Cynthia Hew, indulge, the chef finalists will be judged by celebrity chefs Eric Ripert, Andrew Zimmern, Emeril Lagasse, and world class mixologist Charles Joly, who will determine the winner.

Rum and Robusto

From locally produced to world-renowned rums, guests will indulge their senses and enjoy cigars from Cayman Cigars Company and coffee with Son Cubano at the Harbour Club. A true toast to the good life in Grand Cayman, this event will also feature island-inspired cocktails.

The Grand Gala

This elegant celebration of food and beverage is hosted by Andrew Zimmern and features a delightfully plated dinner at Blue by Eric Ripert. Chefs Pano I. Karatassos, Norman Laprise, Dominique Crenn, Clare Smyth, Thomas Raquel and Thomas Seifried will come together to prepare an enchanting dinner and a true highlight of Cayman Cookout. Each course paired with world-class wines will surprise and mesmerize with each bite.

Guests interested in participating in this epicurean celebration may do so by booking the "Cayman Cookout" package, starting at \$1,536 USD per night for two guests with a four-night minimum stay required. The package includes daily breakfast buffet for two at Seven Restaurant and tickets for two to the Wine Fair & Auction, Barefoot BBQ, an After-Dinner Party and Rum & Robusto.

Reservations for Cayman Cookout can be made at <https://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/caribbean/grand-cayman/offers/cayman-cookout> , by phone at +1 800-241-3333 or by contacting one’s preferred travel professional. Individual ticket sales for Cayman Cookout 2020 will be available starting October 1, 2019 and can be purchased at www.caymancookout.com.

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About The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman

Spanning 144 acres sea-to-sea from world-famous Seven Mile Beach to the North Sound, The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman is the island’s only AAA Five Diamond hotel and a flagship of the Caribbean. The 375-room luxury resort features a la prairie spa, five restaurants including Blue by Eric Ripert, the island’s largest ballroom, an interactive culinary studio, and The Courts tennis center. The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, Grand Cayman is highlighted by its Greg Norman-designed nine-hole golf course, and by a new indoor golf simulator using Trackman technology. Further property highlights include the Starfish Cay water park, Oculus glass bottom boat, renowned Ambassadors of the Environment family program by Jean-Michel Cousteau, and the new Seven South – the largest luxury hotel suite in the Caribbean. For more information, visit

www.ritzcarlton.com/grandcayman, or to engage directly with the resort, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ritzcarltongrandcayman>.

Photos available upon request.

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