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## **BURGER SHACK AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, KAPALUA SELECTED AS A WINNER IN JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION'S BLENDED BURGER PROJECT**

*The luxury Hawaiian resort's oceanfront restaurant will showcase its winning Maui 'Ono Mushroom Burger in New York City in October*

**KAPALUA, MAUI, HI** – September 25, 2019 – [The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua](#) – the cherished resort located on Maui's pristine North Shore – is pleased to announce its very own Burger Shack as one of the five winning restaurants of the [5<sup>th</sup> Annual Blended Burger Project™](#). The project, hosted by the James Beard Foundation challenged restaurants and foodservice professionals to menu a more delicious, nutritious and sustainable burger blending meat and mushrooms.

From Memorial Day through July 31, restaurants served their own renditions of a blended burger and encouraged diners to cast their votes online for their favorites. With nearly 500 restaurants in all 50 states and 402,000 consumer votes, Burger Shack was chosen amongst the top 25 finalists by a prestigious panel of judges.

Burger Shack's Executive Sous Chef Meredith Manee helped create the one-of-a-kind Maui 'Ono Mushroom Burger which is inspired by the Island's finest seasonal and local flavors. The patty combines 70/30 grass-fed Maui beef and Kiawe-smoked king ali'i mushrooms for a mouth-watering and flavorful experience. Served with a toasted brioche bun, this unique burger is infused with other eclectic ingredients such as upcountry watercress, pickled hon shimeji mushrooms, red onion, carrot salad, Bel Paese cheese and kimchee ketchup. The combination of the ingredients works harmoniously together, creating a mouthful bite with ideal bun-to-filling ratio.

"I'm thrilled to have had my Maui 'Ono Mushroom burger creation selected as a winner in this exciting competition," said Executive Sous Chef Meredith Manee. "The variety of flavors, textures and sauces make the burger truly unique and I'm honored that the James Beard Foundation has recognized it as a stand-out dish."

Chefs from the winning restaurants now have the opportunity to cook their blended burgers at the historic James Beard House in New York City on October 23. Winners will also be taking home \$5,000 each.

Located on Kapalua's pristine beachfront, Burger Shack is a casual hideaway where guests can savor signature burgers, over-the-top shakes and a selection of featured cocktails, wine, craft and local beer. With the award-winning Blended Burger now on the regular menu, this idyllic dining venue is the ideal spot to enjoy lunch or simply cocktails with friends while taking in picturesque sights. Burger Shack also offers \$7 bar bites and \$5 select beers during its daily Shore Break Happy Hour from 3 to 4 p.m. Additionally, customers with a valid Hawaii ID are treated to the kama'aina special of 25% savings on food.

For more information about or reservations at The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, please call (800) 262-8440, the hotel directly at (808) 669-6200, a travel professional or visit The Ritz-Carlton Web site at [www.ritzcarlton.com/kapalua](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/kapalua).

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*The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C., of Chevy Chase, MD., part of Marriott International, Inc., currently operates more than 90 hotels and 40 residential properties in more than 30 countries and territories. The Ritz-Carlton is proud to participate in the industry's award-winning loyalty program, Marriott Rewards® which includes The Ritz-Carlton Rewards®. Members can now link accounts with Starwood Preferred Guest® at [members.marriott.com](http://members.marriott.com) for instant elite status matching and unlimited points transfer. For more information or reservations, visit the company web site at [www.ritzcarlton.com](http://www.ritzcarlton.com), for the latest company updates, visit [news.ritzcarlton.com](http://news.ritzcarlton.com) and to join the live conversation, use #RCMemories and follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ:MAR).*

### **About The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua**

*The AAA Five-Diamond Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua showcases a stunning, destination resort offering 466 newly reimagined guestrooms, including 107 residential suites, with all new décor capturing Kapalua's rich heritage and natural aloha. The Ritz-Carlton Spa®, Kapalua beckons with treatment rooms framed by private garden showers, volcanic stone grottos, steam, sauna and whirlpool therapies, outdoor couple's hale (cabanas) and a fitness center and movement studio with spectacular ocean views. Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment program offers all interest levels an array of outdoor activities from land to sea, led by trained naturalists. The breathtaking island resort also features six dining experiences, enhanced indoor/outdoor meeting space, an inviting children's pool and new, custom luxury cabanas. The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua is nestled on 54 acres and enveloped by the 22,000 acre Kapalua Resort, renowned for two championship golf courses, award-winning restaurants and the site of an historic pineapple plantation.*