



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Erica M. Martinez
The Fairmont Dallas
(214) 720-5211
erica.martinez@fairmont.com

**THE FAIRMONT DALLAS APPOINTS
ANDRE NATERA
EXECUTIVE CHEF**

Dallas, TX (June 2, 2010) Mark Huntley, Regional Vice-President and General Manager of The Fairmont Dallas, is pleased to announce the appointment of Andre Natera as the hotel's Executive Chef.

Most recently, Chef Natera was the Executive Chef at Great Wolf Lodge. Under his leadership, he successfully opened the resort and positioned it as the number one performing property within the brand. Previously, Chef Natera was at Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa in Palm Springs, Calif., which was one of only 26 hotels to receive the Gold Platter award in 2006 from *Meetings and Conventions*, during his tenure as Executive Chef. He also received the *Dallas Morning News* Rising Star Chef award in 2003.

"We are thrilled to have Chef Natera at The Fairmont Dallas," said Huntley. "Upon his arrival, Chef Natera immediately immersed himself in the kitchen, began establishing relationships with the culinary team and embraced our sustainable cuisine culinary program with a passion that is fully reflected in his new menus."

Over the course of his 16-year culinary career, Chef Natera has developed a food philosophy which points to his affinity for a fresh approach to cooking – if it grows together, it goes together. This ideology makes Chef Natera a natural fit at The Fairmont Dallas, where he will oversee all kitchen operations for Pyramid Restaurant & Bar and hotel catering.

In addition to top honors from Le Cordon Bleu School of Culinary Arts Portland, Chef Natera continued his culinary education through the years with various food certification programs, including a Techniques of Healthy Cooking program in St. Helena, Calif. It was during the time that he lived in California that the fresh market concept began to shape his culinary philosophy. "I draw inspiration from Mother Nature, the true work horse in the kitchen. Fresh, simple and approachable are what resonate with people and with their palates."

Chef Natera will be responsible for menu creation and execution in Pyramid Restaurant & Bar and all hotel food outlets, menu implementation and overseeing kitchen operations. Chef Natera plans to approach the new menus by refining flavors that are familiar and enjoyable to create a pleasant surprise for the palate.

Fresh taste will hail from the 3,000-square-foot garden located on the hotel's terrace level where herbs, spices and numerous fruits and vegetables are tended to by Chef Natera and the culinary staff. "Having the garden will allow me to nurture each herb, spice and vegetable individually and find a way to use them to really magnify the distinctive flavors in my dishes," said Natera.

The opportunity to procure a vast amount of locally sourced ingredients is a motivating factor for Chef Natera to establish relationships with purveyors and farmers. "I recognize that local purveyors can provide me with more than just ingredients – I can learn from them about new unfamiliar products and about the current landscape of produce."

Chef Natera's personal interests include studying Eastern philosophy and Taoism, which influence his culinary philosophy. "Taoism is all about respecting nature, keeping things simple and not overcomplicating thing in life – in general that's my approach to food."

Located at 1717 N. Akard, The Fairmont Dallas is situated in the heart of the Downtown Dallas Arts District, just steps from fine dining, shopping, arts and entertainment. The hotel's 545 elegant guest rooms and luxury suites combine hospitality, comfort and that special Texas flair for an unrivaled experience. Fairmont Gold, an exclusive lifestyle experience, is designed to fulfill the needs of the discerning business executive and leisure traveler, with many of the comforts of home and more. The Fairmont Dallas hotel can accommodate your lodging needs for business or leisure, grand events, weddings, conferences, or intimate meetings.

ABOUT FAIRMONT HOTELS & RESORTS

With over 60 distinctive hotels, including the iconic Fairmont San Francisco and Fairmont Peace Hotel, Shanghai, and more in development, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts is a global hospitality brand known for its warm and engaging service and culturally rich experiences. Located in coveted worldwide destinations, its unrivalled collection of classic hotels imbue a sense of heritage, sophistication, and social importance, and are often considered destinations in and of themselves. Fairmont is also committed to responsible tourism and is an industry leader in sustainable hotel management with its award-winning Green Partnership program. Fairmont is owned by Fairmont Raffles Hotels International, a leading global hotel company with 95 hotels under the Fairmont, Raffles, and Swissôtel brands. The company also manages Fairmont and Raffles branded residences, estates and luxury private residence club properties. For more information or reservations, please call 1-800-441-1414 or visit www.fairmont.com.

#