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THE RITZ-CARLTON, PORTLAND WELCOMES PORTLAND'S ACCLAIMED CHEF LAURO ROMERO

PORTLAND, OR (May 1, 2023) – [The Ritz-Carlton, Portland](#) is pleased to announce the appointment of the award-winning Lauro Romero as Restaurant Chef. Chef Romero will assume his new role on May 1, reporting to Executive Chef Pedro Almeida. He brings nearly two decades of culinary excellence to the hotel's New American, Pacific Northwest-inspired restaurant.

"I'm excited to work closely with Chef Romero on executing the culinary vision for our innovative food and beverage program at The Ritz-Carlton, Portland," said Executive Chef Pedro Almeida. "Chef Romero has made a name for himself in Portland and received national awards and accolades. I'm looking forward to joining forces with such a bright culinary mind and bringing our vision to life."

Prior to joining The Ritz-Carlton, Portland, Chef Romero was a Co-owner and the Executive Chef at Republica. Republica was opened in late 2020 as a Mexico-forward food and beverage concept and opened to instant regional and nationwide recognition, receiving *Portland Monthly's* 2021 Restaurant of the Year, *Eater PDX's* Best New Restaurant 2021, and was a James Beard semi-finalist for Best New Restaurant in 2021. It was also named one of *Bon Appetit's* 10 Best New Restaurants of 2022. After leaving Republica in fall 2022, he restarted his Clandestino PDX pop-up, with his carnitas landing at No. 1 of Portland's 10 Best Dishes of 2022 by *The Oregonian's* Michael Russell and his pop-up at Lil' Dame (from the Dame Collective) being named Portland's Best Mexican Restaurant by *Portland Monthly* in early 2023.

Prior to that, Chef Romero spent over 10 years with Kimpton Hotels & Resorts in Utah and Oregon.

"This role with The Ritz Carlton, Portland is a dream come true for me," said Chef Romero. "I'm thrilled to bring my love for cooking and creating memorable experiences to the hotel."

The hotel's restaurant will showcase the region's diverse culinary traditions, drawing inspiration from Oregon's bountiful Willamette Valley, the state's farms, ranchers, rivers, and the Pacific Ocean. The menu will feature ingredients indigenous to the region as well as items from local purveyors and skilled artisans. The culinary journey will be accentuated with world class wine selections featuring exceptional Oregon wineries and unique spirits crafted by the region's master distillers.

To learn more about The Ritz-Carlton, Portland, visit ritzcarlton.com/portland.

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ABOUT THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL COMPANY, LLC

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C., of Chevy Chase, MD., part of Marriott International, Inc., currently operates more than 100 hotels and over 45 residential properties in 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 for instant elite status matching and unlimited points transfer. For more information or reservations, visit the company web site at www.ritzcarlton.com, for the latest company updates, visit 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, PORTLAND

[The Ritz-Carlton, Portland](#) is set to open in summer 2023. This 35-story, 251-room hotel, centrally located in downtown Portland (S.W. 10th and Alder Street), offers uninterrupted views of Portland's skyline, the Cascade Mountain Range and the Willamette River. Highlights of the stunning 460-foot crystalline tower include a 4,000 square-foot fitness facility, The Ritz-Carlton Spa® with five treatment rooms and an infinity edge pool. Guests and locals alike will be able to dine at the hotel's 20th floor restaurant and bar overseen by Michelin-starred chef Pedro Almeida.