

NEWS



THE RITZ-CARLTON®
MARINA DEL REY

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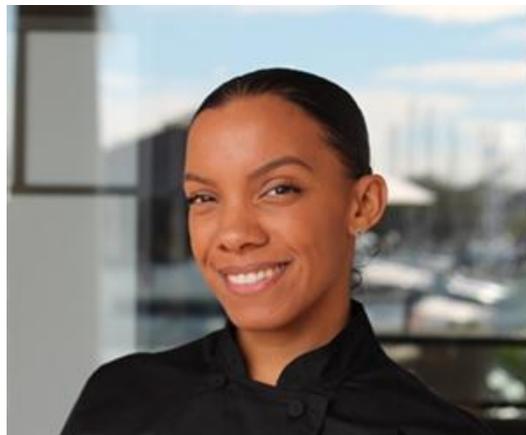
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CAST & PLOW AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, MARINA DEL REY UNVEILS NEW PASTRY CHEF JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Returning to the Santa Monica 5-star hotel for a second time, seasoned Pastry Chef Vanessa Johnson isn't afraid to add a little spice in the kitchen

MARINA DEL REY, Calif. – January 9th, 2015 –

In the height of its success bringing local vendors into the spotlight, [Cast & Plow](#) has added a new member to its talented team. Previously the hotel's Assistant Pastry Chef from 2007 to 2010, Vanessa Johnson returns to her favorite property to help assist with its newest concept that revolves around farm-fresh Southern California cuisine.



Having worked in kitchens across the country at The Ritz-Carlton, Los Angeles, Le Cirque at the Bellagio in Las Vegas and most recently the Capella Pedregal Hotel & Spa in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, Johnson jumped at the opportunity to return to this Los Angeles luxury hotel.

"I like to combine herbs and spices with my desserts," Johnson explains, adding that one of her past creations included aerated chocolate ganache, mezcal foam and chili powder.

This Valentine's Day, Johnson will showcase her talent by creating a stunning presentation for couples to enjoy after their meal that consists of a glass adorned with circles of raspberry purée and agar and filled with crème fraîche panna cotta, raspberry foam, a homemade macaroon and topped with an edible flower.

CAST & PLOW UNVEILS NEW PASTRY CHEF VANESSA JOHNSON/2

As the Marina Del Rey hotel's signature restaurant, Cast & Plow will celebrate its one-year anniversary next month and Executive Chef Umit Kaygusuz shows no indication that the creative juices have evaporated thanks to Johnson's expertise.

"[Vanessa's] attention to every moving part that goes into a dessert compliments Cast & Plow's concept completely," Kaygusuz says.

To learn more about this Los Angeles waterfront restaurant, or to make a dining reservation, visit http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/MarinadelRey/Dining/Cast_Plow/Default.htm

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About The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey

Minutes from LAX, Venice Beach, Santa Monica and Beverly Hills, The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey offers a peaceful retreat that draws on the soothing elements of the surrounding ocean. Guests can admire the exceptional scenery from each of the [304 guest rooms and suites](#), featuring private balconies; the farm-to-table restaurant, highlighting locally sourced ingredients; LA's only waterfront pool or the [luxury spa](#). As one of the city's only AAA Five Diamond hotels to have a waterfront location, The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey offers a desirable venue for weddings and events, with more than 30,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor function space. Whether visitors are seeking a few days of self-reflection, a relaxing beach weekend, an unforgettable wedding venue or a quintessential California dining experience, The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey offers the perfect destination.

About The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, LLC

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C., of Chevy Chase, Md., currently operates 87 hotels in the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Caribbean. More than 30 hotel and residential projects are under development around the globe. For more information or reservations, visit the company web site at www.ritzcarlton.com, and for the latest company updates, visit news.ritzcarlton.com. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ:MAR).