



INTERNATIONAL CULINARY PHENOM NAMED CHEF FOR SIGNATURE RESTAURANT ONBOARD OASIS OF THE SEAS

Up and Coming Talent Molds a Unique Dining Experience for 150 Central Park

MIAMI – While other cruise lines recruit chefs who have been around forever, Royal Caribbean International, once again, sought innovation in choosing a notable and blossoming chef de cuisine for 150 Central Park, the ship’s signature restaurant in the Central Park neighborhood. Keriann Von Raesfeld, an award-winning, internationally acclaimed chef is heading up the most talked about restaurant aboard the world’s largest and most revolutionary cruise ship. After an extensive world wide search for the most up and coming talent, Royal Caribbean discovered Von Raesfeld at the prestigious 2008 World Association of Chefs Societies (WACS) Congress in Dubai. Von Raesfeld’s extraordinary talents have earned her high profile accolades, which include being the first American and the first woman to win the honor of ‘Best Young Cook in the World’ at the 2008 WACS Congress. She also led Team USA to a first gold medal at the Scotthot Competition in Scotland and was part of Team USA’s regional team that won the first ever gold medal at the Culinary Olympics held in Germany.

Bringing a whole new meaning to “fresh young talent,” at the age of 23, Von Raesfeld has realized the lifetime goal all chefs share, to manage a restaurant of their own, leading a team of the best chefs in the industry. As chef de cuisine, Von Raesfeld is a fixture in 150 Central Park, present in every aspect of the signature venue, from the day-to-day kitchen operations and the dining experience, to interacting with guests nightly.

“Keriann Von Raesfeld’s incredible talent and innovative vision for 150 Central Park is the perfect fit within the constellation of culinary offerings aboard *Oasis of the Seas*,” says Frank Weber, vice president, Food and Beverage Operations, Royal Caribbean International. “Keriann embodies Royal Caribbean’s culture of innovation. Rather than partner with a traditional celebrity chef to lend a name to our signature restaurant, we found one that is a true star in her own right who will focus all of her attention in making the 150 Central Park experience stellar. Royal Caribbean found an authentic, hidden gem with Keriann.”

Von Raesfeld’s modern American epicurean approach, established in formal training from the Professional Culinary Institute and continuously refined through various international competitions, is founded in familiar cuisine and brought to life in original and unique ways. The distinctive style exercises a play on temperatures and textures to create dishes such as a spicy “hot” gazpacho and a Kobe steak entrée served with shitake “bacon” and a celery root purée. Other signature presentations include Von Raesfeld’s acclaimed banana split, which requires a day-and-a-half of preparation.

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“Royal Caribbean has given me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” says Chef Keriann Von Raesfeld. “My experience in international culinary competitions – where time and food constraints are inherent – is a huge advantage in helping to prepare me for what will be one of the best restaurants at sea. 150 Central Park will be a refined and inviting restaurant, offering extreme attention to detail, from the china and stemware to our amazing wait staff and sommeliers.”

Completing the gastronomic experience at 150 Central Park is the most dynamic wine program of any Royal Caribbean restaurant. The expansive wine list, created by Master Sommelier John Blazon, features wine recommendations paired with the evening’s menu and presented in three “tasting tiers” based on the bottles’ price points. Guests can view the ship’s extensive collection in an attractive wine cellar that’s visible from within the restaurant.

Located in the lush and tropical grounds of the ship’s open-air Central Park neighborhood, the décor of 150 Central Park embraces organic earth tones, unique textiles and fixtures created in the spirit of nature’s four seasons. Inspired by the simple elegance of trend-setting restaurants in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, each detail of 150 Central Park is dedicated to enhancing the dining ambiance, from the tabletops to the service team uniforms. The restaurant features two menus per sailing, each offering a six- and eight-course option, and opens for dinner daily from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with a \$35 cover charge.

Oasis of the Seas is the largest and most revolutionary cruise ship in the world. An architectural marvel at sea, it spans 16 decks, encompasses 225,282 gross registered tons, carries 5,400 guests at double occupancy, and features 2,700 staterooms. *Oasis of the Seas* is the first ship to tout the cruise line’s new neighborhood concept of seven distinct themed areas, which includes Central Park, Boardwalk, the Royal Promenade, the Pool and Sports Zone, Vitality at Sea Spa and Fitness Center, Entertainment Place and Youth Zone. The ship sails weekly from her home port of Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Additional information is available at www.OasisoftheSeas.com.

Royal Caribbean International is a global cruise brand with 21 ships currently in service and one under construction. The line also offers unique cruise tour land packages in Alaska, Canada, Dubai, Europe, and Australia and New Zealand. For additional information or to make reservations, call your travel agent, visit www.RoyalCaribbean.com or call (800) ROYAL-CARIBBEAN. Travel professionals should go to www.CruisingPower.com or call (800) 327-2056.

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