

News Release



For Immediate Release:

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TOP CHEF CARLA HALL OPENS WIND CREEK'S COOKING STUDIO
First Course in Full Menu of Cooking Class Offerings

Celebrity Chef Carla Hall will be a key ingredient in the grand opening of the Cooking Studio – an upscale cooking school that is part of the Wind Creek Hotel and Casino resort in Atmore, Alabama. The grand opening is scheduled for Friday, September 4th, at 11:00AM.

Hall gained national attention after an impressive run on the Bravo television network's "Top Chef: New York" program where she cooked her way into a coveted finalist slot.

The Cooking Studio at Wind Creek, featuring SubZero/Wolf, is headed by Chef Stafford DeCambra, the resort's corporate chef and a gold-medal winner in the prestigious Culinary Olympics. He notes, "Carla is really an exceptional talent in the world of first-class chefs. She has an amazing ability to create wonderful dishes that reflect the best of a region's cuisine which is an important part of our philosophy at the Cooking Studio. She is also a really nice person and a great teacher, so I am thrilled she will help open our Cooking Studio and work with me to teach our very first classes."

Hall, owner and chef of Alchemy Caterers, a premier catering company in Washington, DC, recognizes the importance of regional cooking schools that attract amateur chefs. Her own path to becoming a professional chef did not follow a straight course. After graduating from business school and working at a top national accounting firm, Hall decided to follow her real passion – food and professional cooking. A native of Nashville, Tennessee, Hall moved to Europe where she worked as a runway model while learning French cooking techniques that she applied to her favorite southern cuisine.

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Hall returned home to the States and enrolled in a regional cooking school located near Washington, the Nation's Capitol, where she had attended college. Hall says, "I was so fortunate to be able to attend a wonderful cooking school in the mid-Atlantic region that teaches classes to amateurs, as well as cooks who want to become professional chefs. From that experience, I know what a powerful influence the Cooking Studio can be in producing great food, encouraging good cooks, and increasing appreciation nationwide for what is best about the Gulf Coast region and food made in the South."

Chef Stafford concurs. "We want to provide a showcase for the region's cuisine and all the wonderful food that is produced here – great seafood, the beautiful produce, and some of the country's finest dairy products and beef. This will be a beautiful place to take fun classes. And who knows? A Cooking Studio experience may inspire a talented amateur to pursue their passion and become the next "Top Chef."

Carla Hall and Chef Stafford will do a joint cooking demonstration for the media at the Cooking Studio's opening on Friday at 11:00AM. The following day, (Saturday) from 12:00PM to 2:00PM, fans of Carla Hall and "Top Chef" are invited to meet her and get a signed photograph at the Wind Creek casino. A full listing of the Cooking Studio's classes can be found at www.windcreekcasino.com

Jay Dorris, PCI Gaming's President adds, "Our Cooking Studio gives our guests a place where they can be Master Chefs while cooking up fun with friends and family. At Wind Creek, we believe that food and friendship are central to our lifestyle, and we are proud that the Cooking Studio blends the two in a unique setting that sets our resort apart from others in the region."

Food is also the theme of the new Spa at Wind Creek. Guests can relax in delicious treatments that include a Milk and Honey Bath, a Wind Creek "Signature Massage" and a "Spiced Brown Sugar" and "Vanilla Bean Body Wrap". The Spa features separate men's and women's facilities which include a sauna, steam room, whirlpool, a fitness area, nail spa and retail boutique. "The Cooking Studio and the Spa really round out the offerings at Wind Creek," notes Dorris. "This is a deluxe resort that offers first class luxury and entertainment to our State and keeps tourist dollars here at home".

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