

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JOIN WORLD RENOWNED CHEF LACROIX FOR A COOKING DEMO AND TASTING OF ITALIAN CUISINE AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

In conjunction with the Ancient Rome & America exhibition

Philadelphia, PA (May 14, 2010) – World renowned chef **Jean-Marie Lacroix**, a leader in the Philadelphia culinary scene for over two decades, will join the National Constitution Center for *Gusti d'Italia*, a cooking demonstration and small plate tasting of Italian cuisine, on Thursday, June 3, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Prior to the tasting, guests can enjoy a wine and cheese reception and an exclusive tour of the Center's world debut *Ancient Rome & America* exhibition at 5:30 p.m. *Gusti d'Italia* is \$79 for Constitution Center members and \$99 for non-members. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

The tasting, prepared by the Center's exclusive culinary provider Max & Me Catering, will include: roasted olive oil and fennel crusted tuna medallion with baby arugula, sultana raisins, Gaeta olives, focaccia crostini, roasted garlic, and Caesar vinaigrette; homemade potato gnocchi with Prosciutto di Parma, artichokes, and fava beans in a lemon basil broth; braised lamb shank stew with cannellini beans and fennel in a red wine tomato gravy topped with toasted pignoli nuts and shaved Parmigiano-Reggiano; Italian dessert *Zabaglione* with fresh berries and ladyfingers; and an Italian cheese tasting with Quadrello di Bufala, Piave Vecchio, and Pecorino Tartufo served with fresh figs and crostini. A complete menu and wine list is available at www.constitutioncenter.org.

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ADD ONE/GUSTI D'ITALIA

Jean-Marie Lacroix is one of Philadelphia's premier French chefs. Following his tenure at The Four Seasons, he became executive chef at his eponymous restaurant, Lacroix, at The Rittenhouse Hotel, where he earned a near-impossible "Four Bells: Superior" review from *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Lacroix was also named "Best New Restaurant" by *Esquire* magazine. Lacroix is a native of Epinal in France's Franche-Comte region, and received his formal training at Thonon les Bains on Lake Geneva. In 2001, he received the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Lacroix has worked with Max & Me Catering as a consultant for the past two years, and has just announced his new expanded role as Chef-Partner with the company. As culinary director, he develops elaborate menus for the catering company's highest tier events, oversees all aspects of food and beverage, elevates service standards, and trains and mentors chefs. After spending the month of May traveling across Europe seeking inspiration in the continent's new and most innovative restaurants, Lacroix is sure to bring some inspired creations to this demo directly from Italy.

Through August 1, 2010, the National Constitution Center is hosting the world debut of *Ancient Rome & America* – a multi-million dollar, artifact-rich exhibition showcasing the cultural, political, and social connections between the lost world of ancient Rome and modern America. The 8,000 square foot exhibition, featuring a never-before-seen collection of artifacts, was created by the Center in partnership with Contemporanea Progetti of Florence, Italy, in collaboration with the Ministero per i Beni e Le Attività Culturali, Rome, Italy.

Admission to *Ancient Rome & America* is \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$12 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising," is included. iPod audio tours cost an additional \$5. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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ADD TWO/GUSTI D'ITALIA

CBS 3 and The CW Philly are the official media partners of *Ancient Rome & America*. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising." The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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