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STARWOOD HOTELS & RESORTS WAIKIKI INTRODUCES “TASTES OF WAIKIKI”

WAIKIKI, HONOLULU, HAWAII – June 29, 2016 – In partnership with Hawaii Tasting Tours, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Waikiki is introducing an innovative way to get a true flavor of the cuisine at each of the four hotels’ signature bars. Combining history, culture, cuisine with a short walking tour between destinations, the first *Tastes of Waikiki* event is scheduled for Sunday, July 10 at 5 p.m.; the series continues on the second Sunday monthly thereafter. *Tastes of Waikiki* showcases selections from the Mai Tai Bar at The Royal Hawaiian, a Luxury Collection Resort; Vintage 1901 at the Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa; Splash Bar & Bento at Sheraton Princess Kaiulani; and RumFire at Sheraton Waikiki.

The Original Mai Tai Bar, which opened in 1953 at the hotel affectionately known as the Pink Palace of the Pacific, offers its lobstah (Pidgin for “lobster”) roll with miso honey aioli, cucumber namasu and celery hearts on a buttery split top bun; and crispy chicken wings with lilikoi and chili pepper glaze, shaved local vegetables and pickled yuzu cucumbers. Completing the dishes is the bar’s famous Royal Scratch Mai Tai, a perennial bestseller at the Mai Tai Bar.

The next stop is the Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa at Waikiki's premier wine hotspot, Vintage 1901, named after the year the hotel opened as Waikiki's first hotel. Overlooking the famed 102-year-old banyan tree, Vintage 1901 offers Tastes of Waikiki gourmands a trio of selections including wagyu beef tartare "nachos," yellowfin ahi tuna poke cup with a steak from the hotel's acclaimed beachhouse at the moana restaurant. The selections come paired with the participant's choice of red or white wine.

The third stop is just across the Moana Surfrider and is at Splash Bar & Bento at the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani. Participants will get a combination taste of garlic sautéed North Shore truck shrimp scampi, plus a kalua pork slider. A choice of red or white wine is being offered at Splash Bar & Bento.

The fourth and final stop is at the Sheraton Waikiki's RumFire, a popular oceanfront gathering spot. At RumFire, Tastes of Waikiki participants are served two dishes: mahi taco chimichurri with miso brown butter, and basil Kahuku corn salsa Kahuku shrimp bao in a spicy black bean aioli with pickled onion and Chinese "fine herbs." The beverage pairing is one of RumFire's signature drinks: the Scorched Strawberry with Cruzan strawberry rum, fresh mint, strawberry puree, pineapple juice and Hawaiian chili pepper water, with a sugar-cayenne spiced rim.

"Tastes of Waikiki is the kind of experiential activity our guests have been craving," said David Benefiel, director of food and beverage for Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Waikiki. *"It's the kind of activity that allows guests to interact and mingle with others who share a common love of food, learning and traveling."*

The gastronomic guide for Tastes of Waikiki is Gigi Gaea of Hawaii Tasting Tours, who developed the concept successfully with properties on Maui in 2013. The tour is currently offered only in English to those who are 21 and older. Private parties should book in advance, and those who have specific dietary restrictions should notify Hawaii Tasting Tours at least 24 hours in advance. The cost is \$179 per person plus tax. The cost includes the tasting, one

alcoholic beverage at each location (non-alcoholic beverages can be served as alternates), gratuities for the servers, plus a few other extras. The restaurants and menus are subject to change without notice. Reservations can be made via e-mail to Hawaii Tasting Tours at info@hawaiitastingtours.com, or at (808) 359-8159. More information can be found on [Hawaii Tasting Tours' website](#).

About Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Waikiki

Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Waikiki, comprised of the Sheraton Waikiki, Sheraton Princess Kaiulani, The Royal Hawaiian, a Luxury Collection Resort, and Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa, is owned by Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts, LP and managed by Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. Between the four properties, Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Waikiki offers 4,110 rooms, ranging from comfortable affordability to the ultimate in suite luxury. In addition, the properties offer industry-leading and critically-acclaimed food and beverage offerings and one-of-a-kind resort amenities. Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts, LP is one of Hawaii's largest employers, with nearly 3,000 hotel associates in its workforce.

About Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii

With 11 properties across the diverse Hawaiian Islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii offers the best hotel destinations to celebrate romance, reconnect with family, focus on business or launch an adventure. Located on or just footsteps away from the Islands' best beaches, Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Hawaii is a collection of iconic and historic hotels and resorts – properties with expansive and breathtaking backdrops, innovative guest programming and luxurious amenities representing internationally renowned hotel brands from Sheraton, Westin, Luxury Collection and St. Regis. For more information about Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Hawaii, please call (866) 716-8140 or visit Starwoodhawaii.com.

About Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.

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