

Biltmore
CORAL GABLES ~ MIAMI

PRESS ROOM

BILTMORE WELCOMES SEASONED WORLD-CLASS EXECUTIVE CHEF TO HEAD CULINARY OPERATIONS

CORAL GABLES, FL (April 12, 2001) - The Biltmore Hotel, renowned for its popular catering operations and award-winning restaurant La Palme d'Or, advances its overall food and beverage programs with the appointment of Geoffrey Cousineau as Executive Chef. Cousineau will oversee all culinary operations and administration for catering, in-room services, special events and the hotel's restaurants.

"The hotel has elevated its food and beverage programs in recent years and has become recognized for its innovative wine program and top-rated cuisine, especially that of La Palme d'Or," said Dennis Doucette, resident manager for The Biltmore. "We felt true leadership skills and talent combined with extensive experience in resort food services is what was needed to tie all our programs together and that is what Geoffrey brings to the table."

No stranger to grand dame resort hotels, Cousineau begins his new position after a four-year run with the Jewel of the Desert, the Arizona Biltmore Resort in Phoenix. After graduating from the famed Culinary Institute of America in New York, Cousineau was on the opening culinary team for EPCOT center in 1982 and was then a chef de partie for the Empress Lilly in Lake Buena Vista. Cousineau's whirlwind culinary tour has taken him from the Frenchman's Reef Resort in St. Thomas USVI in 1984 to co-owning his own 80-seat French restaurant with his wife Shannon in Lake Tahoe at the age of 26. He has also enjoyed Executive Chef positions with the Hyatt Grand Champions in Palm Springs California and four years as Executive Chef with Universal Studios Hollywood, California.

"I already feel like one of the family here at The Biltmore and I am especially enjoying working with such talented chefs as Chef Philippe Ruiz of La Palme d'Or and our extremely creative pastry chef Michel Chiche," said Chef Cousineau. "I believe the only way to keep fresh in this business is to constantly challenge yourself and everyone around you and I look forward to introducing exciting, new menus and exceptional service for our corporate clients and loyal patrons."

Built in 1926, The Biltmore is a four-star, four-diamond, National Historic Landmark property offering luxury hotel accommodations and 76,000 square feet of meeting facilities as well as an 18-hole golf course, tennis facilities, The Biltmore Fitness Center and Spa and the largest hotel swimming pool in the Continental United States. Located in the heart of Coral Gables, Miami's upscale community, and only minutes from Miami International Airport, The Biltmore is designed in the Mediterranean-revival style with large stone columns, decorative hand-painted ceilings, Italian marble floors and an open-air courtyard and fountains. The Biltmore was again voted by Conde Nast Traveler in their January 2000 issue to be one of the "Best Places to Stay in the World."