

LAS VEGAS HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AMONG THE GLOBE'S PREMIER FINE dining regions, now boasting a litany of world-class chefs. From *Wolfgang Puck* to *Emeril Lagasse*, *Guy Savoy*, *Bradley Ogden*, *David Burke*, and *Mario Batali*, Las Vegas is home to a veritable "who's who" of celebrity A-list chefs. *Steven Striker*, our man of influence in Las Vegas, has confided to us his personal favorites. One is *Alessandro (Alex) Stratta*, Executive Chef at *Alex* in the *Wynn Resorts Hotel*. Chef Stratta, most recently winner of the 2007 Mobil Travel Five-Star Award and the AAA Five Diamond Award of Excellence, is hailed as one of the "Best Hotel Chefs" by the James Beard Foundation. His restaurant offers French Riviera-inspired cuisine, an exceptional wine list, and impeccable service. The "Tournon" of Foie Gras with pickled Anjou pears appetizer will send your taste buds soaring, and the Roasted Jamison Farms Lamb with spiced apricots, peppers and pine nuts entrée is absolutely sumptuous. The must-have dessert is the Chocolate Cream Napoleon with milk chocolate ice cream. *Tom Moloney*, Executive Chef at *AquaKnox* in the *Venetian Hotel*, is another admired Striker star. Moloney spent 12 years under the tutelage of Chef Wolfgang Puck. He has turned seafood into an art form in Las Vegas. His spectacular "Seafood Plateau" appetizer features fresh Louisiana Prawns, Stone Crab Claws, Mussels, Oysters, Clams and Ceviche (along with Ponzu Oyster Sliders) that are flown in fresh daily. The main course, sautéed John Dory with Lobster Succotash and Sweet Corn Broth, is delectable. But it's the Chef's signature whole grilled Maine Lobster stuffed with crabmeat that makes this dining experience unforgettable. Reservations at these restaurants should be made at least two months in advance of your visit. With the right connection, you can also arrange for these chefs to come meet and greet your VIP party. Our and your connection is "The Ultimate Las Vegas Insider"—Steven Striker, Founder and CEO of Striker VIP, Inc., a five-star Las Vegas host, concierge and event service provider who creates luxury Las Vegas experiences. Reach "Striker" online at www.StrikerVIP.com or via telephone at (866) VIVAVIP (848-2847).

THE PRESTIGIOUS *RITZ-CARLTON*, *HALF MOON BAY*, 30 MILES SOUTH of *San Francisco*, known for its extraordinary oceanfront setting, terrific golf and innovative cuisine, will hold their enticing "Inside the Kitchen: Summer" series of top-flight culinary classes, June 1 through August 31. The classes are open to overnight guests and members of the community, and feature celebrity chefs, renowned cookbook authors and mixologists in intimate, demonstration-style classes for 30 students. The hotel has partnered with Viking and Chronicle Books, and will donate a portion of